هكذا من الأصل

Syria Seeks Persian Gulf Backing Against Turkey, Israel

ABU DHABI — Syria has sent its vice president to the Persian Gulf to muster support against what it considers Israeli and Turkish threats against the Arab world.

Abdel Halim Khaddam discussed the stalemate in peace negotiations with Israel and Turkey's anti-Kurd incursion in northern Iraq during talks in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Contd on Pg. 14)



28 PAGES, PRICE 200 RIALS

VOL. XIX; 48; THURSDAY MAY 22, 1997; KHORDAD 1, 1376; MOHARRAM 15, 1418

Total to Invest $2 bn in Iran

PARIS — The French oil group Total said Wednesday it was considering a two billion dollar joint venture to develop an Iranian gas field in the Persian Gulf.

Total chairman Thierry Desmarest told a shareholders meeting that the company had made much progress in talks with Iran on developing the Pars south gas field, one of the largest in the Persian Gulf, although he added that talks were not completed.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Leader Promises Free and Fair Presidential Election

TEHRAN — The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday said that voting in the upcoming presidential elections is in fact voting for the independence of the country and for allegiance to the system and leadership.

In a meeting with the families of prisoners of war (POWs) and those missing in action (MIAs), the Leader said that the Iranian people will disappoint the enemy and punch it in the face by massively turning out in presidential elections slated for Friday.

The Leader said the presidential election is a popular move and a great national and Islamic test, adding that efforts should be made to hold the election in a healthy and orderly manner as prescribed by Islam.

"The election campaign is one of most serious issues for a learned nation. There is no kidding at all. It is like serious athletic competitions which cannot be coupled with indecent and inappropriate



acts. Therefore, the atmosphere of election in a country whose nation adheres to ethics, morality and faith should not cause annoyance," Ayatollah Khamenei remarked.

On the rumors spread by enemies on possible ballot rigging, the Leader said, "How it is possible for someone to dare to manipulate the votes of people in presidential elections, because the Guardians Council will supervise the polls and there will remain no room for vote-rigging.

"Moreover, the interior minister and the ministry officials who are trustworthy, faithful and revolutionary have assured me that they will not allow even a single vote to be manipulated.

"I, myself will closely follow up the voting process and will not allow any entity to commit an un-Islamic act incompatible with the social and political norms."

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Candidates Must Live Up to Their Promises

FOCUS

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — During the 7th presidential campaign almost all candidates announced that they do not represent a specific faction. On the contrary, they said, despite being supported by a specific group, they represent boarder spectrum of society and promised to work for the betterment of the nation as the help of other factions. Was it really an election gesture or a true commitment?

Indeed the multiplicity of the factions in the election has provided a congenial ground for a massive turnout in the election. However, one of the candidates will emerge as the next president either after the first or the second round of the elections. The candidate who has denounced monopoly should adopt practical steps to share power with other factions.

The anti-monopoly candidate is required to implement all his policies and viewpoints by allowing all forces and political factions to share power with his faction.

Apparently the number of political groups is increasing in our country. Hence the task of the next president becomes more complicated.

Since all the factions are loyal to the Islamic system and its leadership, there will be no problem for sharing power among factions

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Moscow's NATO Pact Like 1939 Nazi Deal

MOSCOW — Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky on Wednesday denounced Russia's new security deal with NATO, comparing it with Moscow's ill-fated 1939 pact with Nazi Germany.

"It very much recalls the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact of 1939. We concluded a non-aggression pact and what happened within two years? A direct attack," Zhirinovsky said, referring to the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

"Comrade Stalin said he didn't think the Germans would deceive him. Today the very same thing is going on," the flamboyant politician told the Lower House of Parliament.

"Only one thing awaits us. Either dissolution into NATO and becoming a servant-girl or they begin war against us," Zhirinovsky said, during a debate on the 1997 budget.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

New Formula for Europe's Security

FOCUS

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — At the end of his periodic talks with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Javier Solana, which resulted in drawing up the draft of defining the framework of NATO-Russian relations, The Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said that he had reached complete agreement with the organization.

In general, the plan for the Eastern European countries to join NATO has been among the subjects followed up by the organization following the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Although the groundwork is almost prepared for the realization of such a plan due to the security vacuum in the Eastern Europe in the post-Cold War era, fresh impetus is also given by the plan to the renewed rivalry and politico-military give and take between Russia and the United States.

Russia's strong opposition to the expansion of NATO into the Eastern Europe, particularly its tough preliminary warning of forming a new alliance vis-a-vis such expansion, and its concern over the transfer of NATO's atomic weapons to the territories of its Eastern European members, which was expressed in the recent talks, all lend credit to the above assumption. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Kabila Discusses New Government

KINSHASA — Laurent Kabila, self-proclaimed president of the new Democratic Republic of Congo, worked on his eagerly awaited first government on Wednesday and a senior advisor dismissed fears of a return to dictatorship.

Officials said Kabila, whose forces toppled Zaire's veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko at the weekend, met his top advisors at his new riverside headquarters to discuss the make-up of the govern-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

KINSHASA, (May 20): President Laurent Desire Kabila (C) arrives in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo after he flew from his southern stronghold of Lumbumbashi. Kabila's army entered Kinshasa, then capital of Zaire, last Saturday. Kabila proclaimed himself president the same day and was rapidly recognized as the new head of state by world leaders, changing the name of the country to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(AFP PHOTO)

Leader's Office Considers Reports Invalid

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Office of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, issued a statement here on Wednesday, rejecting certain rumors linked to the meeting of Hojjatoleslam Mousavi Khoeiniha and Hojjatoleslam Karrubi with the Leader on May 15.

The statement pointed out that, in view of the fact that contradic-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

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In the Name of God

O you who believe! be careful of (your duty to) Allah and be with the true ones.

(HOLY QORAN) (9:119)

OPINION

Election Observers Must Abide By Leader's Guidelines

Only one day is left until the seventh presidential election and the Iranian nation is eagerly getting prepared to go to the polls tomorrow to decide who will be the next president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The presence of renowned contenders in the presidential fray has given a specific attraction and charm to political atmosphere of the country, infusing the people with an unprecedented enthusiasm for taking part in electing the next head of the executive.

It is unfortunate that, during the election campaigns, the supporters of some candidates went to the extremes, launching slanderous attacks on rival candidates. That disgraceful act gave rise to rumors that the results of the election would be rigged.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei yesterday called on the election observers to make every effort to ensure that the election would be held in a fair and sound atmosphere. He assured the nation that not even a single vote would be rigged. The Leader also said that he would personally oversee the election process to make sure that everything is in order.

In fact, the Ministry of Interior and the Guardian Council are the main addressees of the Leader's guidelines, tasked with the heavy responsibility for ensuring the soundness of the election. The onus is also on the election observers to heed the instructions of the grand Leader, not allowing their personal attitudes to undermine their impartiality. In other words, they must respect the people's votes and also make others do so because the it is the people who constitute the buttresses of the Islamic system.

The people's participation in the process of nation-building and decision-making will keep its significance even after the election. The people under an Islamic state constitute one of the three pillars of the system, the other two being Islamic ideology and the leadership.

With the Leader's assurances, every Iranian citizen will now go to the polls in high spirits, being assured of his decisive role in sealing the political fate of his country for the next four years.

The friend and foe have already admitted that the candidates running for president truly represent the major trends existing in the Iranian society. Therefore, every Iranian citizen with whatever political outlook can identify himself with at least one of the candidates. Thus, the expected massive turnout of the eligible voters will surely set a landmark in the history of the nation in the post-Islamic Revolution era.

Tehran-Islamabad Parliamentary Ties Reviewed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Expansion of parliamentary ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan was discussed in a meeting between Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad, Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh and the Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan, Ilahi Bakhsh Soomro in Islamabad Wednesday.

According to IRNA, The Iranian diplomat said at the meeting that the wise leadership of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and the unity of the Muslim nation of Iran have thwarted all plots hatched by the U.S. against the Islamic Revolution.

Referring to his previous visits to Iran, Soomro said that the decisive leadership of Ayatollah Khamenei and the unity of the Iranian nation have created an excellent pattern for other nations to follow.

Turning to the critical situation in Afghanistan, the Pakistani speaker called for closer cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad in solving the regional problems.

Iran Praises Int'l Community for Assistance to Quake Survivors

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi on Tuesday praised the international community for its assistance to the quake-stricken areas of Khorasan Province.

Speaking to the UN General Assembly, Kharrazi said that over 1,560 people were killed, 2,300 injured and 52,000 became homeless as a result of a a magnitude 7.1 quake which hit the area.

Public service infrastructure including the irrigation network, education, health and transportation facilities have been severely damaged, he said.

The relief operation is underway in full force, he said adding that national and international response to the appeal by the Islamic Republic government has been tremendously positive and encouraging.

Kharrazi said that convoys of relief items collected inside Iran continue to pour into the region.


KHARRAZI

"It is of great importance that the extent of international assistance is said to be unprecedentedly encourging, which clearly reflects the unity of humans," he said.

On behalf of the Iranian nation and government, he expressed appreciation to all governments, organizations and individuals who have provided assistance, one way or another, to relieve the sufferings of the survivors.

Kharrazi also thanked the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for his leadership and appeal for international assistance as well as members of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs and all UN specialized agencies in Tehran for their tireless efforts in mobilizing and channeling international assistance.

President of the UN General Assembly Esmael Razali also present at the session, expressed sympathy with the people and government of Iran, calling for assistance of international community to the survivors of the disastrous quake.

Distribution of Newsletters Supporting Candidates Banned

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Distribution of any newsletter in support of candidates of the May 23 presidential elections is banned from Thursday on, the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry announced here Wednesday.

In its announcement, the ministry referred to the Article 66 of the Election Law, according to which any elections campaign is banned 24 hours before the elections date, and said that the ban will continue to the end of the elections.

According to the announcement the offenders will be severely punished and the newsstands and papers distributors are duty bound to observe the regulation.

Iran Supports Holding Regional Conference on Afghanistan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh said in Islamabad on Wednesday that Tehran welcomes holding of a regional conference to explore ways to end fratricide in Afghanistan.

Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif has announced that a regional conference will be held in the near future to encourage Afghan groups to hold talks with an aim to settle peace in that war-torn country.

The Iranian diplomat stressed that Tehran has always called for a peaceful solution to the Afghan plight and maintains that peace will be reached through contribution of all Afghan rival factions and the regional countries.

Akhoundzadeh added that the past years' experiences indicate that employment of military forces is not a fair solution to the crisis, but will further deteriorate the situation.

Referring to the last years' Tehran Conference on Afghanistan, he said that if Taleban had attended the gathering, the fruit of peace would have been brought about sooner.

Iran is concerned about the continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan, and hopes that the warring sides would understand the sufferings of the Afghan nation, he added.

Akhoundzadeh also held a meeting on Wednesday with the Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Eftekhar Morshed on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

In the meeting the two sides agreed to continue consultations on the issue in the future.

Presidential Candidates Stop Campaigning

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Headquarters for Presidential Election announced on Wednesday that the legal deadline for campaigning is 8 a.m. on Thursday, May 22. It called on the supporters of candidates to avoid wooing the voters after the deadline. The presidential election will be held tomorrow.

In a statement, the office also urged the publicity campaign headquarters of the presidential candidates to fully cooperate with the officials in charge of holding the seventh presidential election.

According to Article 66 of the Constitution, the publicity campaign of the presidential candidates must stop 24 hours before the polling-day.

Meanwhile, the election special inspector, Hojjatoleslam Gholam Hossein Rahbarpour on Wednesday said that the qualifications of the presidential candidates have been approved of by the Guardian Council, stressing that no body has the right to insult and slander the candidates.

Speaking at a press conference, Rahbarpour added that ever since the start of the election campaign, some 200 people have been arrested for violating the election law.

He also said that 100 chief-inspectors as well as 1,000 inspectors have been appointed to observe the voting process in Tehran Province. The inspectors will be totally impartial and will firmly deal with any violation of the election law, he emphasized.

'Iran Daily' Out on Newsstands

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — New English language newspaper *Iran Daily* appeared on newsstands in Tehran and other Iranian cities on Wednesday.

The eight-page daily, including four color pages, is published by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Iran Daily, the fourth English language daily published in Iran, covers social, economic and political news from Iran and elsewhere in the world.

The Managing Director of IRNA, Fereidoun Verdinejad, has said that IRNA's English language newspaper *Iran Daily* seeks to help build constructive cooperation among nations and governments.

Interviewed by IRNA on the paper's agenda, Verdinejad said the fundamentals of Iranian society and current international developments demand constructive communication and cooperation among nations to achieve peace and development.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is now pursuing its development and reconstruction policies and to this end the mass media play their own specific tasks, he said.

IRNA has taken measures to publish various publications by the Iran Press Institute in pursuance of its declared goals, he said.

Publisher of 'Aftabgardan' Sentenced

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The publisher of *Aftabgardan* magazine Gholam Hossein Karbaschi, was fined 20 million Rls. by the Public Court of Tehran on Monday, an IRNA report said.

The magazine had published a satire titled, "Firm and Full Support of an Informant for Performance of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)" in two occasions.

The case was reviewed by the court on Monday and the jury with a majority found Karbaschi guilty.

The court, in its verdict, instructed the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to revoke *Aftabgardan*'s permit.

Meanwhile, the Special Court of Tehran found two writers, Najaf Qoli Habibi and Ms. Sediqeh Vasmaqi, guilty of publishing articles offending Majlis Deputy Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Habibi and Vasmaqi, instructors at Tehran University, had gone beyond the limits in their critiques and analysis of minutes of Larijani's talks with British deputy foreign secretary in London, said the verdict.

The court fined each one 1 million Rls. for their calumny. They have also been given a two-month jail sentence for publishing false reports. The defendants can appeal the verdict at a higher court.

Iran's Cultural Fair Opens in Tokyo

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's cultural exhibition was inaugurated in Tokyo on Tuesday with an aim of introducing Iran's ancient Islamic civilization, IRNA reported.

It is the second such exhibition to be organized by Iranian Embassy in Tokyo this year.

Varying kinds of handicraft including carpets, illumination works, gelims and pottery as well as statues, native costumes, and religious, political and historical books both in Persian and Japanese languages are on display at the ten-day exhibition.

Promotion of Tehran, Riyadh Ties Discussed

Tehran Times Service

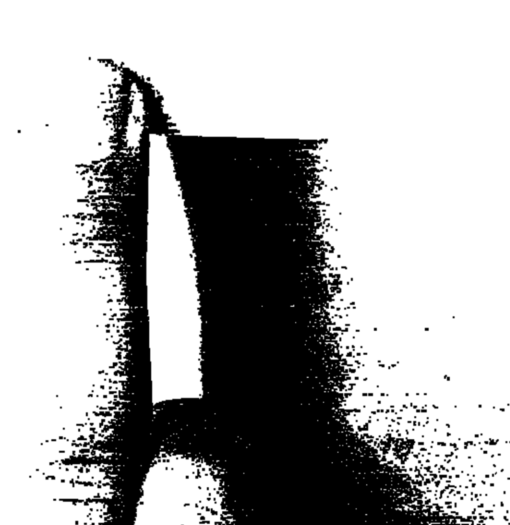
TEHRAN — Enhancement of bilateral relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia was reviewed in a meeting between the Iranian Ambassador to Riyadh, Mohammad Reza Nouri Shahroudi, and Saudi Minister of Higher Education, Khalid ibn Muhammad al-Angari on Tuesday.

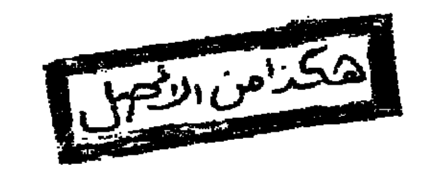
The Iranian ambassador conveyed an invitation from Iran's Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Reza Golpaygani to his Saudi counterpart to visit Iran, an IRNA report said.

Turning to friendly relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries, he voiced Tehran's readiness to expand cooperation with Riyadh in higher education, research and scientific fields.

Lauding Iran's achievements in educational and scientific fields, the Saudi minister described Tehran-Riyadh cooperation beneficial to both nations and the world of Islam and welcomed expansion of the bilateral ties.

Al-Angari also invited the Iranian higher education minister to visit Saudi Arabia.





هكذا من الأصل

Election Update

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian authorities on Wednesday closed the campaign headquarters of a candidate in this week's presidential election. Mohammad Khatami's public relations bureau on Karim-Khan Zand avenue was shut down around noon.

* The secretary of the Guardian Council, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati: "Violation of election rules in the presidential election by any group or person should not be sanctioned. It is a serious crime to break established boundaries. What worries us is that we will resort to character defamation and discrediting of each other's personalities.

* Nateq Nouri: The country occupies a sensitive place in the international arena. Today the world is awaiting the results of the presidential election in Iran so as to adjust its relations with the Islamic Republic. The massive presence of people in the polling booths will disappoint the enemies of the Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran and thwart their plots.

* Reyshahri: Improvement and strengthening of the country's management system should be the primacy concern of the incoming president. If, God forbid, an individual is given responsibility in the country's administrative system on the basis of favoritism, group loyalty or friendship, this would be treason to God and His Messenger.

* Seyed Mohammad Khatami: The official elected to run the executive system has the mandate of the people and considers the people's votes to be a divine trust. Hence, one should not heed certain rumors that people's votes do not count in this country.

* Abdollah Nouri, Majlis representative from Tehran and member of the Expediency Council: If we use illegal measures to ensure the victory of our candidate we may gain victory but such victory is in reality a defeat. If, however, we stick to moral values and Islamic injunctions in conducting our election campaign, we will definitely be the winners even if we do not succeed in getting the candidate of our choice elected.

* Ahmad Tavakkoli, candidate in the sixth presidential election: If we desire development, justice and prosperity for the country, we should aim for cultural upliftment of the country.

* The Armenian Prelacy, in a statement issued yesterday, invited the people of Iran to massively participate in the presidential election. Part of the statement reads: Since participation in an election is a right granted the people in the constitution, the exercise of the right is in fact an act of respect for such constitution. Armenians living in Iran, the statement further read, are enjoined to participate in great numbers and to cast their votes for the candidate of their choice.

* The campaign period ends on May 22 (today) at 12:00 hrs local time. After that time all candidates, election headquarters and campaign-related activities shall cease.

* The Interior Minister announced that some 60 milion ballots have been printed due to the possibility of the election being extended for a second round.

* A number of Nationalists released a statement protesting the rejection of the applications for candidacy of Ezzatollah Sahabi, Ali Akbar Moeinfar and Ebrahim Yazdi. The protestors further announced that they wil participate in the election but will cast blank votes.

* Ayatollah Meshkini, head of the Assembly of Experts: "Massive presence of people will discourage the enemy and encourage supporters of the Islamic system.

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 29°C
Min. temp. 17°C

Partly cloudy with dust and wind and scattered showers

Warmest Point:
Nikshahr 42°C

Coldest Point:
Firoozkouh 1oC

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	39	Vienna	—
Istanbul	38	Moscow	—
Rome	—	Madrid	22
Athens	—	Abu Dhabi	36
London	12	Karachi	33
Paris	13	New Delhi	40
Frankfurt	—	Kuwait	47

Khorramshahr's Liberation Anniversary Commemorated

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Ideo-Political Organization of the Ministry of Defense here on Wednesday issued a statement commemorating May 24 the anniversary of liberation of Khorramshahr.

The organization said in its statement that liberation of Khorramshahr is manifestation of the valor and resistance of the people who sacrificed their lives for defending the divine and Islamic values.

The liberation of Khorramshahr by the army, IRGC and Basiji forces during Bait-ul-Moqaddas operation was a prerequisite for other victories achieved by the combatants of Islam during eight years of the Sacred Defense,, the statement read.

The statement went on to say that the people of Iran while relying on God's assistance and implementing the remarkable guidelines of the founder of the Islamic Revolution late Imam Khomeini and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, have always showed a massive turn out in all political, military and economic scenes.

IPO Sets Crieria for Candidate Suited for President

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) released a statement announcing its criteria for the choice of a candidate most suited to become the next president.

The statement said the ideal president is one who conforms to the following criteria:

1. Belief in Velayat-e-Faqih (guardianship of the supreme Muslim Jurisprudent) and full conformity with the intellectual, cultural and political viewpoints and stands of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

2. Obedience to the Leader, both in past and present activities, and having his trust.

3. Enjoys the support of groups whose viewpoints and stands mirror those of the Leader's, and does not espouse causes or entertain views contradictory to those of the Leader's.

4. Proven competent and prudent in administrative and executive functions, with a record of good performance in discharging great responsibilities entrusted to those in the highest levels of macro-management positions calling for mastery over the political, economic and cultural issues of the country.

5. Possessing profound knowledge of international issues, enjoying international prestige, and having sufficient experience in conducting international relations and politics.

6. With a clear revolutionary record, wide social and political participation, and distinctly identified with the pre-Revolution struggle.

7- With sufficient knowledge and understanding of the functioning of the country's executive and legislative systems and the proven ability to coordinate the three branches of government.

8. With full knowledge and awareness of the extent of the West's cultural attack and the firm resolution and seriousness to plan a concerted response in order to protect the religious and revolutionary identity of Islamic Iran.

9. Committed to the protection of the younger generation by strengthening the bases of the country's fundamental religious culture, such as the mosques, and with a firm belief in the growth of fundamentalism in the cultural and political fields.

10. With an unwavering belief and solid resolution to combat the social evils, administrative corruption and economic problems facing the country, and the courage, power and determination to introduce changes in the country's executive system.

11. Enjoys the support and widespread patronage of the majority of prominent *ulema* in the country and teachers of theological seminaries.

12. Enjoys national prestige and has the support of the masses.

Sri Lankan Troops Beat Off Tamil Rebel Attack

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lankan soldiers beat off a minor attack by Tamil Tiger rebels near a northern town captured by the military four days back and prepared to advance into guerrilla areas, military officials said Wednesday.

One soldier was killed and three were wounded in the attack on military lines near Nedunkerni on Tuesday night. An artillery barrage forced the rebels to withdraw, officials said on condition of anonymity. Rebel casualties were not immediately known.

Army soldiers were continuing to fortify their positions around the towns of Nedunkerni and Omantai, two small towns they wrested from Tamil rebels during the past week, officials said.

Soldiers were being moved to the frontlines Wednesday to replace those killed. The military says 61 soldiers were killed and 99 wounded in nine days of fighting. Local newspapers said 85 soldiers were killed and 300 wounded.

The military also claimed 200 rebels were killed and 316 wounded. The rebels admitted only 60 dead and have accused the military of exaggerating guerrilla losses "to create the illusion of its military strategy succeeding."

(AP)

Iranian Jews to Actively Participate in Presidential Elections

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Community of Iranian Jews here on Wednesday stressed that the country's Jews actively participate in the 7th Presidential elections to be held on Friday, May 23.

The community in a statement, underlined that Iranian Jews in response to the call of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, together with their countrymen consider the participation in elections a religious and national duty and will massively cast their ballots in the presidential elections.

Polish National Education Minister to Visit Iran Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Polish National Education Minister and Head of Tehran-Warsaw Parliamentary Friendship Group Yersy Wiatr in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Taheri in Warsaw on Tuesday underlined formation of parliamentary friendship groups, IRNA reported.

Wiatr, welcoming an invitation extended to him by the Iranian diplomat on behalf of Iran's Higher Education Minister Mohammad-Reza Hashemi Golpayegani to visit Iran, expressed hope that he would pay an official visit to Tehran soon.

He said the visit would provide him with an opportunity to inspect scientific, educational and research centers in Iran, and meet with Iranian officials.

Taheri underlined the importance of expanding Tehran-Warsaw relations in cultural, scientific and educational areas.

Islamic Human Rights Commission on Election Complaints

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Islamic Human Rights Commission will investigate all complaints filed on election violations and publish a detailed report on the procedure, IRNA reported.

The commission expressed hope that electorates will show greater political insight and elect the most eligible candidate.

TEHRAN TIMES MAY 22, 1997

Foodstuff Exports to Earn $300-350m

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Foodstuff exports is to earn the country between $300-350 million by the year end on March 20, 1998, Industries Minister Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh said here on Wednesday.



Nematzadeh said at the inaugural ceremony of Food and Agricultural Industries Exhibition that the monetary value of foodstuff exported last year reached $230 million from $12 million at the onset of the First Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan in 1989, IRNA reported.

A total of 330 Iranian and 55 foreign companies from 10 countries have put on display varying kinds of foodstuff and manufactured goods on show on an area of 6,300 square meters.

European-Made Japanese Cars Top Imports From Japan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The number of passenger cars built by Japanese makers in Western Europe has been rising rapidly, eclipsing imports from Japan for the first time in 1996, Japanese automobile officials said Wednesday.

The number of Japanese-brand passenger cars produced in the year in the region surged 26 percent to 750,000 from the previous year, outnumbering the 714,000 imported from Japan, a 3.5 percent rise, according to the Bonn office of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Kyodo reported.

Japanese automakers have been shifting production abroad to cushion themselves against exchange fluctuations and to cut production costs.

With Nissan Motor Co. aiming to produce locally 90 percent of the cars it sells in Europe and Toyota Motor Corp. making its Corolla vehicles in Europe in 1998, Japanese-brand cars produced at West European production bases will likely break through the one million mark by 2000, the officials said.

Currently, Japanese automakers have nine production plants in Britain, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal.

Iran to Open Bank Branch in Kazakhstan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran is to open a branch of its 'Export Promotion Bank' in Kazakhstan, Director General for International Affairs Department of Mines and Metals Ministry Mohammad Taqizadeh Ansari told IRNA here on Wednesday.

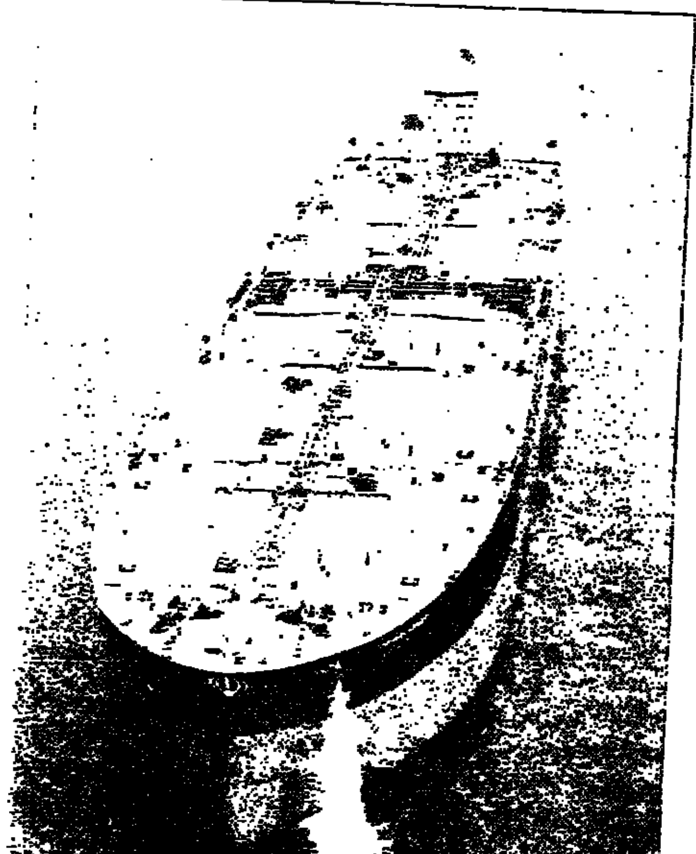
Ansari said that Iran's Export Promotion Bank is to dispatch a group of experts to Kazakhstan, where the bank is to open its branch, to make necessary arrangements.

Speaking in his capacity as Secretary of Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Economic Commission, Ansari said that he and Kazakh Ambassador to Tehran Gizzatov in their meeting Tuesday night expressed satisfaction with progress in the two countries' oil swap deal and with removal of obstacles in this regard.

Iran and Kazakhstan are to finalize the draft of an agreement reached between the two parties for mutual cooperation, especially in the field of oil and gas.

The Iranian secretary of Iran-Kzakhstan joint commission said that a delegation from the mines and metals ministry is to be sent to Kazakhstan in a near future to inspect Kazakh mineral processing plants. The Iranian delegation and Kazakh officials are to explore areas of cooperation in mining field.

Iran to Buy Five Oil Tankers From South Korea



Tehran Times Service

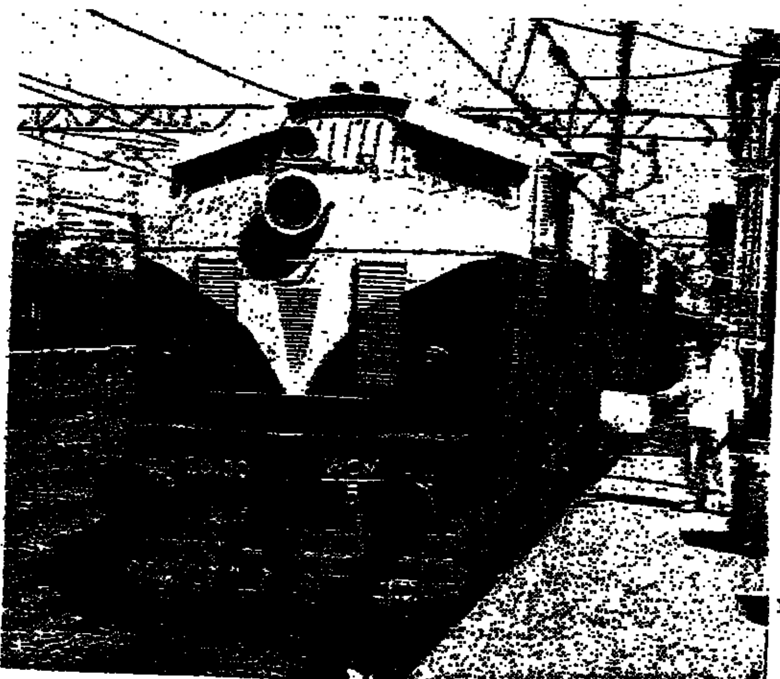
TEHRAN — The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is to buy five modern oil tankers from South Korea.

Contract for purchase of the five tankers was signed in the presence of the Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh in Seoul on Wednesday. According to the contract the vessels should be delivered to the Islamic Republic of Iran within two years.

Once the five tankers are delivered and put into operation the capacity of NIOC's oil tanker fleet will reach to four million tons.

The Iranian oil officials remark that the new vessels will help the NIOC to export oil to the south and central Mediterranean markets dirctly via the Suez Canal.

Iran, China to Manufacture Locomotives



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran and China have agreed to manufacture 100 locomotives with a capacity of 4,000 horse power.

The agreement was signed in the form of finance here Tuesday in the presecne of Iranian ministers of roads and transportation, and industries and Chinese officials, IRNA reported.

The value of the agreement is about $125 million which also includes machiery, and Iranian-made machinery and also transfer of technology to Iran.

The 100 locomotives are to be manufactured over a period of five years, at 20 locomotives a year.

The project ensures transfer to Iran of technical knowledge in that area.

Iran, a Reliable Source of Energy

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The South Korean Trade, Industry and Energy Minister said in Seoul on Wednesday that Iran is a reliable source of energy in the world.

The South Korean, talking to visiting Iranian Oil Minister Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh expressed satisfaction with the growing trend of relations and cooperation between Tehran and Seoul, IRNA reported.

Aqazadeh said in reply that Iran was ready to meet a larger portion of South Korea's fuel requirements.

In his meetings with the South Korean president and several other high ranking officials, Aqazadeh underlined the need for expansion of economic relations between Tehran and Seoul, calling on South Korean companies to actively contribute to implementation of projects in Iran during the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-1999).

Kazakhstan Ready to Buy Concentrated Copper, Lead, Zinc From Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Kazakhstan is ready to purchase concentrated copper, lead and zinc from Iran and to make joint investment in Iranian mining industries, the Kazakh ambassador said on Wednesday.

The ambassador, Vyacheslav Guizzatov made the remark in a meeting with Director-General for International Relations of the Ministry of Mines and Metals Mohammad Taghizadeh Ansari here on Tuesday where he called on Iran to make investment in Khazakh metal industries, an IRNA dispatch reported.

In the meeting the two sides also agreed to inaugurate a branch of Export Development Bank of Iran in Almaty.

The Kazakh Chairman of the Tehran-Almaty Joint Economic Commission is to take part in an exhibition of transportation in the countries located along the ancient Silk Road, to be held in Iran June 10-15.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates		Export Rates	
		BUY	SELL	BUY	SELL
Australia	dollar	1,352	1,360	2,321	2,333
Austria	schilling	146	147	251	253
Belgium	(100) francs	4,999	5,028	8,582	8,625
Canada	dollar	1,271	1,278	2,181	2,192
Denmark	krone	271	273	465	467
France	franc	307	309	526	529
Germany	mark	1,029	1,035	1,767	1,776
Holland	guilder	916	921	1,572	1,580
Italy	(100) liras	105	106	180	181
Japan	(100) yen	1,516	1,525	2,603	2,616
Sweden	krone	231	233	397	399
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,876	2,892	4,937	4,962
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

Rls.7.5bn for Quake-Hit Areas

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Head of the Natural Catastrophes Agency of Bojnourd Hassan Movahedian said Tuesday that upwards of Rls.7.550 billion had been allocated for the first phase of rehabilitation projects to be underaken in this region.

In February last year, a heavy quake hit Bojnourd damaging upwards of 113 of small villages near the city, IRNA said.

Meanwhile, head of Construction Jihad authority of Mashhad, capital of Khorassan province Mohsen Amirian said Tuesday that the quake in the province earlier this month had inflicted as much as Rls.111 billion damage to infrastructural facilities in the province, the bulk of it having been drinking water facilities, and power and cattle-raising facilities in over 150 villages.

Thailand to Sign Economic Cooperation Pact With 3 Countries

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Thailand will sign an economic cooperation pact with Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka next month as part of a plan to boost economic prosperity in the region, a Thai senior foreign ministry official said.

Department of Economic Affairs Director General Kobsak Chutikul said that Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Pitak Intrawityanont will play host to his counterparts from the three countries on June 6, an IRNA-TNA dispatch reported.

Austrian Airline to Use Advanced Airbus

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — As of June 2, the Austrian Airline will fly passengers in the advanced 340-200 Airbus from Tehran to Vienna and vice versa every Monday.

This airliner is able to carry 260 passengers, providing them with first-class facilities such as super-luxurious seats, satellite telephones and monitors.

The company will employ the Airbus airliners for flights from Tehran to Johannesburg, Tokyo and Shanghai.

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TEHRAN TIMES

SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

FOOTBALL

Atletico Table Juninho Bid

MADRID: Atletico Madrid said they had made a formal bid of eight million pounds (13 million dollars) to relegated English side Middlesbrough for their Brazilian midfielder Juninho.

A club spokesman said they expected the player's father, who is acting as his agent, to come to Madrid later this week to talk terms for a lucrative four-year deal.

However, English champions Manchester United were reportedly ready to offer Middlesbrough 16 million pounds (26 million dollars) for the 24-year-old to replace Eric Cantona.

CRICKET

Sri Lanka Ground Kiwis to Enter Final

HYDERABAD: World champions Sri Lanka fought back from the brink to enter the Independence Cup final with a 52-run victory over New Zealand here.

The Sri Lankans, shot out for a meager 214, hit back through their four-pronged spin attack to stop the flat-footed Kiwis at 162.

Aravinda de Silva, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumara Dharmasena and Sanath Jayasuriya claimed two wickets each as New Zealand wilted under both the energy-sapping heat and intense pressure applied by the Sri Lankans.

Durham Anger as Aussie Warm-Up Abandoned

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham officials hit out at the decision to call off the county's game against Australia due to a water-logged pitch.

Australia's last warm-up match before Thursday's first one-dayer against England was abandoned without a ball being bowled and left the organizers counting the cost of the umpires' hasty decision.

Durham chairman Don Robson slammed the early abandonment as his hopes of cashing in on a bumper attendance went down the drain.

Robson estimated Durham had lost a "five figure sum" because of the washout.

FORMULA ONE

Formula One Off to Market

BONN: Formula One, the British company which owns the rights to Grand Prix television coverage, is to be quoted on the stock exchange with the firm's owner Bernie Ecclestone as the new company's chairman, former Mercedes chairman Helmut Werner said.

Werner, who will become head of the company's board of trustees said he would not intervene directly in the daily running of the company as "non-executive chairman".

Werner said Formula One's move onto the stock market was "inevitable" given the huge level of global interest in the sport.

London banking sources earlier this week put the estimated total value of the company at between 1.5 and 2 billion pounds (2.4 to 3.2 billion dollars).

TENNIS

Agassi Out of French Open

PARIS: Andre Agassi pulled out of next week's French Open with a recurring right wrist injury, the organizers said.

The American, who has dropped to 28th in the world rankings, was forced out of the German Open in Hamburg two weeks ago with the same injury.

He was a finalist at Roland Garros in 1990 and 1991.

Frenchman Jerome Golmard takes Agassi's place in the draw with a wild card going to another Frenchman, Frederic Fontang.

Aussies Upset USA in World Team Cup

DUSSELDORF: Australia upset the United States in the World Team Cup Men's Tennis Tournament here as vastly experiences doubles pair Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge won the crucial rubber in a 2-1 victory.

The "Woodies" saw off Alex O'Brien and Jonathan Stark 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 to grab the win after Michael Chang had beaten Woodforde on Monday and world number one Pete Sampras was forced to withdraw from his match with Mark Philippoussis.

In the other Red Group encounter, Croatia and the Czech Republic were locked at 1-1 with the doubles to be carried over into Wednesday.

In the Blue Group, Spain overcame Sweden winning both the singles.

CYCLING

Three Out of Four for Cipollini

AREZZO: Italy's Mario Cipollini, riding with Saeco, won the fourth stage of the Tour of Italy, a 156km run from San Marino to Arezzo, securing his third win in this year's event.

Russia's Pavel Tonkov of Mapei, who won stage three on Monday, held onto the overall leader's pink jersey.

Cipollini, who had taken both the opening two stages, came home ahead of the pack following a mass sprint to gain the 19th giro stage win of his career since he first participated in 1989.

ATHLETICS

IAAF Doping Tests Like 'Russian Roulette'

LONDON: Vicente Modahl, coach and husband of British 800m runner Diane, claimed the IAAF's testing procedures are "Russian Roulette for innocent athletes."

Modhal has written to professor Arne Ljungqvist, chairman of the IAAF Doping Control Commission listing 10 ways in which testing rules were not observed at a meeting in Slovenia last Sunday.

Modahl claims no guard was present outside the doping control station and that one sample bottle already had liquid inside it before it was given to an athlete.

Modahl is skeptical about testing procedures after the experiences of his wife, sent home from the Commonwealth Games in August 1994 for failing a drug test at a Lisbon meeting two months earlier.

Having been handed a four-year ban, Modahl was subsequently cleared on appeal.

Bulls 84, Heat 77



CHICAGO, United States (May 20): Jamal Mashburn (C) of the Miami Heat drives to the basket as Michael Jordan (R) of the Chicago Bulls tries to block the shot with Luc Longley (L) defending the basket during the second half of game one of the Eastern Conference finals at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois. The Bulls won the game 84-77 to lead the series 1-0.

(AFP PHOTO)

CHICAGO — In the first half, the Chicago Bulls looked like the U.S. National Basketball Association's oldest team. In the second half, they simply looked like the most experienced — and the best — as they overwhelmed the mistake-prone Miami Heat.

The Bulls overcame 36 percent shooting and technical fouls on Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman to defeat the Heat 84-77 Tuesday night in the opener of the Eastern Conference finals.

Before the best-of-7 series started, Miami's Tim Hardaway said: "I'm not saying they're old. But you know, they're up in age."

But after falling behind by 16 points in the first half and trailing by 11 at half time, the Bulls regrouped and looked like the younger team down the stretch.

"In the first half, we probably looked like an old team, missing layups, not really playing with the rhythm we're capable of," said the 34-year-old Jordan, who had 37 points. "But it's two halves and we came out and we played like young men. Our defensive intensity was there.

Chicago's other two old stars also atoned for their technical fouls. Pippen, 31, scored 24 points including a 3-pointer to spark Chicago's game-ending 17-5 run. And Rodman, 36, pulled down 19 rebounds, by far his best showing this postseason, before fouling out with 1:19 left.

"We're a very poised team," Pippen said. "We don't try to push anything."

Miami, coming off a grueling seven-game series against New York, led 72-67 midway through the fourth quarter. But the Heat didn't make a field goal for almost 6 1/2 minutes and fell to 0-7 against the Bulls in the playoffs.

Alonzo Mourning had 21 points and six blocked shots for the Heat but missed five of six free throws in the final 2:20. Miami was 15-of-30 from the line, including misses of all three technical foul shots.

"They obviously showed their greatness at the end with their defensive pressure," Heat Coach Pat Riley said. "We led that game for 45 minutes and really let it get away from us."

The Bulls expected to play the Knicks, who had taken a 3-1 lead over Miami in the previous round. Chicago players were noticeably disappointed when they didn't get to play their archrivals from New York. *(AP)*



DENHAM, United Kingdom (May 20): Scottish Sam Torrance drives off on the 5th fairway during the European Zone final of the world championships in Denham.

(AFP PHOTO)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

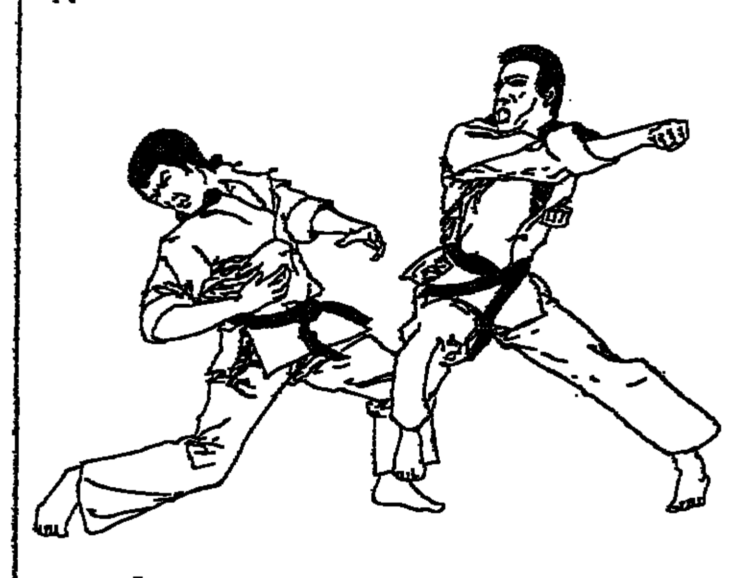
Skills of Kung Fu

(Part 40)

Superiority usually belongs to the defender in a distant challenge since he has enough time to get ready for offense. When an attacker fists or kicks, he cannot change its direction. Bending your head means bending your back which helps you escape from the opponent's stroke. Its main advantages are that you can both be in a good distance to counterattack and prevent your rival's offense. Of course, you should use this tactic cautiously because if you bend your head to escape from a deceiving stroke or also if you do it before your rival strikes, you will be exposed to his fists and kicks. So, when you bend, you should have to keep an eye on your opponent.

Fighting a right-handed or right-guard opponent, most of your side movements should be done on the left side and if your rival adopts left guard, you have to place on the right side since he will be defenseless if his strokes miss. But you sometimes have no alternative and you are made to move to the right when fighting a right-handed opponent. In this case, you need more accurate timing and movements as well as lightning counterattacks.

Moving to the sides to escape from the fists and kicks is considered as a defensive science in kung fu. It is an invaluable tactic, if used correctly, for a counterattack. The main aim behind the tactic is not to escape from the opponent's offense but not to receive his strokes.



If he makes a light attack on you, it is easy for you to defend but you cannot resist a sudden attack without effort and on the other hand you should be so close to your rival enabling you to turn quickly and make an attack just after passing his stroke over your head.

Both offense and withdrawal should be done rapidly except when there is not enough time to react or defend. Meanwhile, you should not let your opponent anticipate your next movements. It is the most favorable time for you to attack your rival when he is confused or hesitates.

The issue of distance plays a vital role in attacking and counterattacking techniques. A trivial mistake can completely spoil an offense. To make an effective attack on the rival, you have to do it before he reaches his desired spot.

Engaging in a close fight, a martial art master unlike a boxer should be on the alert against the strokes of elbows, knees, head, etc.

Afghanistan's Anti-Taleban Alliance Enters Critical Phase

KABUL — Afghanistan's anti-Taleban forces held crisis talks Wednesday to shore up their alliance, after a defection in their ranks led to the hardline militia gaining ground, an alliance spokesman said.

The advance of the Taleban militia can only be stemmed if the emergency negotiations persuade Abdul Malik to rejoin the forces of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam, Abdullah said.

"High level negotiations are still going on with Abdul Malik, and this is a very sensitive and critical situation for us.

"The defection of Malik and the loss of so much ground is a very big setback, but there is a chance he can be convinced to change his mind," Abdullah said.

Malik, who was a senior commander in Dostam's forces, on Monday switched allegiance to the Taleban, taking with him two provinces and allowing the Taleban to march into another he had cut off.

The Taleban, taking advantage of the revolt in the alliance ranks, launched a major offensive Tuesday making crucial gains in central and northern Afghanistan, although issuing conflicting reports on the extent of its gains.

Despite claims late Tuesday that they had captured three northwestern provinces of Badghis, Faryab and Sar-e-pol, Taleban officials here said Wednesday their forces had not yet entered Faryab Province — Malik's stronghold.

And they added their forces have been blocked at the border with Badghis by soldiers reluctant to hand the territory over.

The opposition alliance has conceded that the revolt resulted in the Taleban capturing a key opposition ally, former Herat city governor Ismael Khan who commanded a force of 2,000 fighters.

Khan was grabbed by advancing Taleban fighters between the northwest frontlines and the opposition's northern Afghan base during the uprising.

(AFP)

Hamas Leader Says No Deal Struck for Release

KUWAIT CITY — Palestinian Hamas leader Mussa abu Marzook, who has taken refuge in Jordan, on Wednesday denied any deal was struck for his release from U.S. custody.

"The truth is that there was no kind of deal to release me, rather there was American resolve to hand me over to the enemy state," the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) leader told the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Seyassah*, referring to Israel.

"If Israel had renewed its demand (for extradition), I would have been handed over very quickly," the leader added in an interview from Amman.

Abu Marzook arrived in Jordan earlier this month after his release from a U.S. prison where he was held since U.S. immigration seized him in July 1995 for suspected terror activities.

In the Kuwaiti newspaper interview, Marzook renewed his denial of Israeli terrorism charges.

"If the case had come before an open sitting of the judiciary, it would have been a good chance for me to prove that I am innocent of charges of terrorism," Abu Marzook said.

(AFP)

Chinese Deputy PM Warns U.S. Congress

MANILA — China's Deputy Prime Minister Li Lanqing Wednesday warned the U.S. Congress against blocking U.S. President Bill Clinton's extension of Most Favored Nation (MFN) trading status to Beijing for another year.

"The MFN status is a mutually beneficial treatment. Any review of the MFN status to China will impact on the development of China-U.S. business relations," Li told a Pacific basin business conference in the Philippine capital.

The MFN status accords China low tariffs enjoyed by most other nations exporting to the United States. The White House decision to extend the MFN status to Beijing, announced Monday, is expected to be challenged in the U.S. Congress, which has 90 days to consider blocking the extension.

"We hope the American government and Congress will take into consideration the overall interest of the two countries to favorably develop bilateral relationships, especially business relationships and resolve these problems once and for all," Li said.

(AFP)

Arafat, Mubarak Consult on Saving Peace Process

CAIRO — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak here Wednesday to explore ways to salvage the peace process with Israel after two months of crisis.

The two leaders held one-to-one talks at the presidential palace in the northern suburbs of Cairo before they were joined by aides including Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa.

Arafat made no statement after the meeting, which Mussa said concerned "ways to save the peace process."

"The conditions (for pursuing the peace process) still exist," Mussa told reporters.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks ground to a halt in mid-March when Israel began building a new Jewish settlement on the edge of annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas which the Palestinians want as a future capital.

Mussa would not say whether Arafat put forward new ideas on how to break the deadlock but said that any agreement would have to center on an end to settlement expansion.

"It is difficult to expect a resumption of talks in a constructive atmosphere while bulldozers continue to clear ground" for new Jewish homes, he added.

Mussa called for greater Russian and European involvement in peace negotiations while saying that the United States remained the main sponsor of the process.

(AFP)

Israeli Soldier Wounded in Attack

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon — Lebanese activists detonated a roadside bomb near an Israeli patrol Wednesday in southern Lebanon, wounding a soldier, security officials said.

The remote-controlled bomb blew up as an infantry unit patrolled a road near the Beaufort Castle, where Israel maintains a major base, the Lebanese officials said. The area is about six kilometers (four miles) northwest of Marjayoun, the main town in the Israeli-occupied border strip.

The soldier was airlifted by military helicopter to Israel, the officials added, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

(AP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

CANDIDATES...

in the executive. Accommodative approach is indispensable to political development and monopoly will hinder full utilization of the country's potentials required for development.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

TOTAL...

Desmarest stressed that if Total goes ahead with the investment, it would do so "in the framework of a joint venture with other partners."

He said further that his group would only invest if the profitability of the gas field were comparable to that of other fields it exploits.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Sunday announced that a $3.5 billion contract had been clinched with Total on the Pars south field.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

SYRIA...

On Wednesday, he was to travel on to Oman and Bahrain.

"We need a joint Arab stand against the threats and challenges besetting the Arab nation," a Syrian delegate accompanying Khaddam told AFP in the UAE capital.

"We are discussing the need for a strong stand in face of the hardline Israeli stances and the Turkish-Israeli alliance, which targets all of us," the delegate said.

Peace talks between Israel and Syria have been frozen for more than a year because of differences over the point at which they should resume and because of Israel's construction of Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories.

Syria insists the negotiations must reopen at the point where they broke off in February 1996 but Israel demands they restart from scratch.

The peace process between Israel and the Palestinians has also been frozen since March when the Zionist state started work on a new settlement in annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Speaking on Abu Dhabi television late Tuesday, Jordan's Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh said a fresh initiative was needed from the United States, which is co-sponsor of the peace process with Russia.

"We had expected the peace process to be completed" by now, he said, referring to the October 1991 Madrid international conference which launched the Arab-Israeli peace initiative.

"But what we see now is a faltering on the Israeli-Palestinian track, a halt on the Israeli-Syrian track, and a complete absence on the Lebanese track.

"I think that the sponsor of the process should undertake a balanced initiative and become a full partner rather than a mere carrier of views ... any more delay will mean more frustration and despair," he warned.

In Abu Dhabi, Khaddam met UAE President Sheikh Zayed ibn Sultan al-Nahayan late Tuesday to discuss the Middle East peace process and the Turkish offensive against the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

"The Turkish-Israeli alliance has targeted not only one Arab country but the entire Arab nation," he told the official news agency Wam.

"This requires consultations among Arab leaders to discuss its repercussions and how to protect Arab interests so that this alliance will not be at the expense of those interests," said Khaddam.

Khaddam added: "There is a Turkish operation in north Iraq constituting an encroachment against the sovereignty of a brotherly Arab country. Syria is worried about Iraq's territory and people."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said last week that he sees planned war games between Israel and Turkey as directed against Syria.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

MOSCOW'S...

Russia agreed to a new security partnership with NATO last week after months of negotiations, clearing the way for the Atlantic alliance to invite new members from eastern Europe at its July summit in Madrid.

Yeltsin is expected to sign the accord at a meeting with Western leaders in Paris on May 27.

Zhirinovsky has lost some of the firebrand touch which won him strong showing in successive elections after the collapse of communism in 1991, but his party remains strong in Parliament.

Moscow has not dropped its opposition to NATO expansion, which it says threatens its security, but the deal is an attempt by Yeltsin to strike a balance between cooperating with the Western defence alliance and appeasing his nationalist critics.

(Reuter)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

LEADER'S...

tory reports concerning the meeting between the grand Leader and Hojjatoleslam Khoeiniha and Hojjatoleslam Karrubi have been published throughout the country in the form of faxes, telexes or leaflets, and considering that some untruths are included in these, the office of the grand Leader announces that those reports are not valid and cannot be referred to.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

LEADER...

"No violation will happen during the presidential polls and I am determined to save the elections from any possible rigging," the Leader vowed.

(IRNA)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

KABILA...

ment and security.

France, a long-time friend of Mobutu, "solemnly" reminded Kabila that it was his duty to protect foreign nationals after two Frenchmen were shot dead in the capital on Tuesday but French ministers dismissed the killings as isolated incidents.

World powers, both sympathetic and skeptical, have been pressing for a broad-based government as a sign of Kabila's democratic good faith and a first step towards multi-party elections. He had promised to unveil the government by Tuesday.

"We want free and fair elections everybody should be proud of and participate in," Kabila's foreign affairs advisor Bizima Karaha told reporters. "We want a...genuine democracy."

Karaha said the new leaders of Africa's third largest nation had no intention of being stampeded by international pressure into elections for which the country was not prepared.

But he dismissed suggestions that Kabila could turn out to be another Mobutu by embracing one-party, one-man rule. "It's impossible...we hate dictatorship," he said.

South Africa, which has taken a lead in efforts to nudge Kabila towards a peaceful democratic transition, announced plans to send experts to help him rebuild the shattered economy.

"We see it as fundamental as part of a wider vision for an African renaissance to put effort into the country now," South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said in Zimbabwe.

Kabila, 56, arrived in Kinshasa after dark on Tuesday from Lubumbashi, his provisional headquarters on the Zambia border. He has moved into the heavy guarded riverside residence of Mobutu's last prime minister.

Soldiers of Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (AFDL) captured Kinshasa on Saturday, completing a stunning seven-month drive from the eastern border. Mobutu's ragged army offered little resistance along the way.

(Reuter)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

NEW...

However, such opposition seems to be gradually fading away and some sort of agreement is being reached. Russia's trying to obtain guarantees from NATO that there would be no atomic weapons or even military installations in the territories of the new members and making concessions by Washington to Moscow promising the latter's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) or the G7 (group of seven industrialized countries) are the pivots of political bargain between the two sides.

According to the Polish prime minister, Russia has in practice agreed to the plan for the expansion of NATO to the East. He added that Russia formerly took a strong position on this issue. Therefore, it cannot easily reveal its change of attitude in this regard.

It follows from the above statement that Poland, regarding its membership and that of other Eastern European countries in NATO, advises Russia to accept the inevitable. However, it cannot be denied that Russia plays a major role in this regard, which has so far been manifested mostly in crisis management not resolving the crisis.

In other words, Russia should view matters such as its membership in the WTO as short-term tactical advantages and its long-range strategy should deal more prudently with the process of the Eastern European countries' membership in NATO.

The importance of the matter becomes evident when the possible repercussions of such membership are taken into consideration.

Based on the NATO's charter, the armies and military forces of the member countries should be once in a while inspected, modernized and reorganized. Thus, if NATO is expanded into Eastern Europe, the presence of NATO's armaments or even nuclear weapons in the territories of the new members is likely.

It is not clear yet who will be in command of NATO. There have been some suggestions on the formation of a joint command council or appointing two chiefs for the organization, but no decision has been reached yet. However, no matter which of these suggestions is approved, Russia will be faced by both the United States and Europe as its strong contenders within the framework of NATO.

Article 5 of the NATO Treaty states that the NATO members will join forces with any member that is the target of a military aggression. Thus, with the membership of Eastern European countries in NATO, it is likely that the organization will increase its presence in Eastern Europe on different pretexts and on the slightest regional tension, and this is exactly what worries Moscow.

Consequently, in case of the full membership of Eastern Europe in NATO, despite the agreements reached between Russia and the organization, tension is most likely in the region. That is because there is a contradiction between the agreements and the NATO's charter. Such a contradiction can only be overcome if the agreements explicitly stipulate that no nuclear weapons should be placed in Eastern Europe and also that the accords should be considered as supplement to the NATO's charter.

هكذا من الأصل

MAY 22, 1997

(Cont'd From Pg. 1)

NEW...

The Helsinki Summit: Selling NATO Expansion

By Gwynne Dyer

Tehran Times Service

LONDON — When the question of expanding NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) into Eastern Europe first came up, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott warned that it was "provocative and badly timed, with what is going on in Russia." Nevertheless, U.S. President Bill Clinton will spend Thursday and Friday in Helsinki trying to persuade Russian President Boris Yeltsin that NATO expansion is a good idea. It will be an uphill struggle.

The turn-about in American policy happened only in the past two years, mainly as a result of insistent pleading by the Eastern Europeans themselves. Having spent decades under the Soviet yoke, they wanted security guarantees for the future even though today's democratic and militarily enfeebled Russia poses no threat to them.

Washington's original attempt to finesse the problem, a vaguely defined 'Partnership for Peace' that included NATO, the former Soviet satellites, and Russia itself, satisfied nobody.

Eastern European governments eager for economic development would probably drop their demand for military guarantees if they were able to join the European Union, but over seven years after the fall of the Berlin Wall the EU has yet to open membership talks with a single ex-Warsaw Pact country. Many suspect that the EU's current obsession with achieving monetary union is mainly a way of dodging the difficult question of eastward expansion.

So NATO was the only Western club that Eastern Europeans could join — and since there are a lot more American voters descended from Polish, Czech and Hungarian immigrants than from Russians, those three countries are going to get their way. (It doesn't hurt that the new U.S. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, is of Czech origin herself, but it was already a done deal.)

Clinton's meeting with Yeltsin in Helsinki, therefore, is not really about whether Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary (plus maybe Slovenia and Romania) should be invited to join the Western alliance at the next NATO summit meeting in Madrid in July. That has already been decided. This is just a damage-control session where the West is trying to find ways of allaying Russian outrage.

That will be tricky, because the Russians are very outraged. Public and elite opinion in Russia is close to unanimous in opposing NATO expansion, and not just because of the ancestral Russian fear of 'encirclement'. The Russians feel betrayed — and they do have a point.

The West is breaking a formal promise to Moscow, made at the time of German reunification to replace them. Unfortunately, Moscow didn't get the promise in writing.

The Russians have full transcripts of the February, 1990 conversations in which then-U.S. Secretary of State James Baker gave Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev categorical assurances that "the military presence or jurisdiction of NATO would not be expanded even one inch in an easterly direction."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, still the leader of NATO's second-largest member, gave identical promises to Gorbachev, and nobody in NATO disputes the validity of the transcripts. The Western governments just ignore them, because the promises were never enshrined in a formal treaty.

The other reason Russians feel betrayed is because adding 60 million Poles, Czechs and Hungarians to NATO will shift the military balance in Europe sharply to Moscow's disadvantage.

Back in the days of the Cold War, Western strategists used to argue that the Warsaw Pact's three-to-one superiority over NATO in tanks proved Moscow's aggressive intentions. Incorporating Polish, Czech and Hungarian forces will give NATO a total of 17,664 tanks, more than three times what Russia has in Europe.

No sane person believes that NATO actually plans to attack



Russia, but it is not enough to say 'just trust us'. By NATO's own logic, Moscow should now fear NATO's aggressive intentions.

In private, Western diplomats point out to their Russian counterparts that it is safer to bring the Eastern Europeans into NATO, because otherwise their fear of Russia would have them making secret alliances that might even extend to include the Baltic states and Ukraine. But you can't say that in public.

So what will Clinton actually offer Yeltsin in Helsinki? None of the three things the Russians want most: a written guarantee that NATO will not deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of new members; a written guarantee that no foreign NATO troops or permanent bases will be deployed there; and a right of veto over the future membership of Ukraine and the Baltic republics.

NATO is perfectly prepared to declare that it has "no intention, now or in the foreseeable future," of moving troops and nuclear weapons into Eastern Europe However, the Russians can't be expected to take the West's word on this sort of thing again.

A more fruitful approach would be to offer the early revision of the Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) treaty, which leaves Russia's forces in Europe greatly inferior to NATO's. The CFE was negotiated in the days when all the tanks in Eastern Europe belonged to the Warsaw Pact and counted towards Russia's total, and it is grossly unfair in the post-Cold War cicumstances.

Russia cannot afford to build more weapons now, so the CFE's renegotiation would have to aim at cutting NATO forces down — and especially on trimming the forces of the new Eastern European members. As a Western diplomat remarked recently, "NATO enlargement is so important for these applicant countries that they are ready to sacrifice on the arithmetic."

Would this be enough to placate the Russians? Maybe, if it were combined with a high-profile new NATO-Russia joint security arrangement to salve their hurt feelings. But mere verbal agreements will not be enough. After their experience in 1990, the Russians want it in writing.

Japan Confused by Sign of Thaw in Russian Attitude

TOKYO — Japan, always wary of Russian intentions, is this time puzzled

What puzzles Tokyo is why, after holding Japan at arm's length over a perennial island dispute, should Russia suddenly welcome expanded U.S.-Japan military ties.

"Welcome? Why does Russia have to 'welcome' closer defense ties between the United States and Japan? Understand, or condone maybe, but why welcome?" said Sophia University professor Masatsugu Naya, a Russian expert.

The statement that perplexed Naya and other Russia watchers, including those at Japan's Foreign Ministry, came over the weekend from Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov, the first Russian defense minister ever to visit Japan.

"We do not hold concerns about a U.S.-Japan military alliance and understand it is not directed against any third country," Japanese officials quoted Rodionov as saying.

"We welcome that Japan and the United States are building even closer security ties," Rodionov added in reference to an ongoing review of U.S.-Japan military cooperation.

Naya said he is puzzled by the comments because they come on the heels of pledges of closer Russia-China links.

"Only a few weeks ago, Russia proclaimed a 'strategic partnership' with China in an effort to counterbalance the United States' growing global role," Naya said. "Rodionov's latest statement does not make any sense."

After a meeting in Moscow between Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in late April, the two countries said they will form a partnership so that no one power, meaning the United States, will dominate the world.

Military analyst Haruo Fujii agreed with Naya.

"It doesn't seem like Rodionov's remarks in Tokyo were based on any long-term strategic policy and this is very UN-Russia like," said Fujii, an expert on Russia's military.

"Maybe Russia is saying it can be flexible, and certainly you can see flexibility in Moscow's latest compromise with NATO's expansion plans. But Rodionov's remarks are still confusing," Fujii said.

Russia signed an agreement last week with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) despite Moscow's opposition to alliance plans to add new member states from former Soviet bloc countries.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said they were sceptical about Rodionov's remarks.

"We can't take this on face value," said one senior ministry official, who asked not to be identified. "After all, they haven't warmed up on the northern territories, the one thing that really matters."

Japan and Russia have still not found a way out of a deadlock over a perennial territorial dispute about what Tokyo calls its "northern territories", islands northeast of Japan, which has prevented the two sides from signing a World War II peace treaty.

Despite a landmark 1993 agreement to resolve the dispute over the Russian-held islands through political dialog, Russia has still not shown signs of a compromise.

Only last week, in three days of talks in Tokyo ending on Friday. diplomats from the two sides failed to reach agreement on fishery rights around the islands.

Called the southern Kuriles by Russia, the islands were seized by Soviet troops in the closing days of World War II.

Japan says it does not accept that Russia should have exclusive fishing rights around the islands as they are disputed. Russian patrol boats have often fired on Japanese fishermen in waters around the islands, saying they are poachers.

As if to keep pace with Rodionov's surprise statement, however, Japan did its own somersault on Russian relations while he was in town.

In a decision that Japanese officials went out of their way to stress was not linked to Rodionov's talks, Tokyo reversed its policy of opposing Russia's full participation in the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations' summit.

The G7 links Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

"The G7 membership issue has nothing to do with this," Fujii said. "Japan just didn't want to be isolated at the Denver (G7) summit by being the last member saying no to Moscow's full membership."

(Reuter)

Kim Dae-Jung Takes New Stab at S. Korean Presidency

SEOUL — He survived a kidnapping, assassination bids and a death sentence, but although he has risked everything for politics, South Korea's Kim Dae-Jung is still striving for the ultimate prize — the presidency.

On Monday, the opposition firebrand launched a record fourth bid for the office.

His National Congress for new politics elected him by a landslide as its torch-bearer for presidential elections in December.

A populist politician with a gift for oratory, Kim draws wide support among workers, students and farmers attracted by his mildly Social-Democratic principles.

But while his rabble-rousing style plays well with working-class South Korea — and made him a thorn in the side of past military-backed governments — it sits uneasily in a new era of democracy.

Conservative middle-classes view the prospect of a Kim presidency with some alarm.

And his Liberal Social agenda makes him a soft target for attack as a communist sympathiser of North Korea — even though he openly supports a Hawkish line on Pyongyang.

With seven months before the vote, Kim now faces the task of re-engineering his radical image.

His challenge is to alter perceptions that he belongs to a bygone era, when hunger strikes and street protests were a way of life for politicians with democratic ideals.

A local hero in the southwestern city of Kwangju and surrounding Cholla Province, Kim was arrested on the eve of a civil revolt in the city in 1980.

His election as presidential nominee came a day after the first government-sponsored anniversary mourning for victims of an army massacre that crushed the rebellion.

It was the culmination of a political comeback he made in 1995. He had announced his retirement from a 30-year career in politics after being trounced by his old rival, Kim Young-Sam, in 1992 presidential elections.

Kim Dae-Jung said he returned because he was disappointed with president Kim, whose ruling New Korea Party is now reeling from a graft scandal. Kim Young-Sam is due to step down when his single term expires next February.

Kim Dae-Jung ran against former General Park Chung-Hee in 1971 presidential polls, and won an astonishing 45 percent of the vote despite strenuous efforts by the government's propaganda machine to destroy him.

During the campaign, his car was hit by a truck in what he claims was an assassination attempt. The accident left him with a permanent limp and chronic neuralgia.

He finished third in presidential elections in 1987 behind Kim Young-Sam and the winner, Roh Tae-Woo.

The son of a rich farmer, Kim Dae-Jung was born on the small island of Haui-Do off southwestern Korea. While his birthdate is officially registered as December 3, 1925, Kim has said he was actually born two years earlier.

He entered Parliament in 1961 after first working as an accountant and publishing a local newspaper.

In 1973, he was kidnapped from his Tokyo hotel room by men he identified as South Korean intelligence agents, who spirited him onto a boat and tied him to a traditional Korean burial board wired to concrete weights.

The vessel put to sea, and Kim Dae-Jung believes he was saved from death by the still-unexplained appearance over the craft of a U.S. helicopter. Three days later, he was dumped blindfolded outside his home in Seoul.

Kim Dae-Jung was one of three hopefuls in an election planned for 1980 after Park was assassinated. But then-general Chun Doo Hwan staged a coup, scuttled the elections and ordered Kim arrested.

The Chun government charged him with sedition and sentenced him to death, but the sentence was eventually suspended.

After a spell in the United States, Kim returned to Seoul in February 1985 but remained barred from political activity. His civil rights were restored in 1987.

Kim's first wife committed suicide. He married U.S.-educated Lee Hi-Ho in 1962. He has three sons.

(Reuter)

Mother, Grandmother Poison 5-Year-Old Girl

NEW YORK — A 5-year-old girl's grandmother and mother are accused of forcing her to swallow a lethal cocktail of ammonia, vinegar, cayenne pepper and olive oil, then putting her body out with the trash.

Grandmother originally told police Amy Burney died of natural causes and lay dead for days before they put her out with the garbage in front of their building.

"She was restrained and her mouth was gagged, and she was intentionally forced to ingest this mixture by both her grandmother and her mother," police said. (AP)

Circus Lion Kills Four-Year-Old

RIO DE JANEIRO — A lion that had escaped from a circus in a northeastern Brazilian town killed a four-year-old boy with a bite to the head.

The lion's tamer was walking the lion on a leash through the small town of Tungua to promote the circus when the feline broke off the chain and entered a video store.

The lion first attacked the four-year-old who died immediately. A second boy was clawed in the arm. (AFP)

95 Dead, Over One Million Homeless in Bangladesh

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — More than 1.5 million people were left homeless and 95 killed by a cyclone which hit Bangladesh on Monday, Bangladesh Embassy reported yesterday.

Nearly 148,017 houses have been damaged and 1,048 cattle killed, and hundreds of roads and bridges smashed and 582 educational institutions have also been damaged. Damage of crops has exceeded 59,000 acres of land.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who had earlier postponed an official visit to Spain due to the impending disaster, flew to affected areas she could not reach on her first trip on Tuesday.

Hasina said Bangladesh should increase the number of cyclone shelters on the coast from 700 to at least 2,000 to cope with major disasters in future.

During the hectic 9-hour visit, the prime minister visited Chittagong, Moheshkhali and Kutubodia, the worst-hit areas of Monday's cyclone. She talked to the people of the cyclone affected areas, inquired about their welfare and assured them of all help and assistance to ameliorate their suffering.

Thousands of rescue workers and 1,043 medical teams in the two disaster zones have set up camps to help some 7,000 injured people and to take preventive measures against the possible outbreak of epidemics.

The UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) in Geneva said on Wednesday the cyclone had killed at least 200 people.



NEW DELHI (May 21): Widow Sonia Gandhi (l) and her daughter Priyanka stand at prayer before the altar-like cremation site and memorial to her husband Rajiv Gandhi on the sixth death anniversary of the slain former prime minister in New Delhi. Mrs. Gandhi's recent decision to enroll as a primary member of the Congress (I) political party put an end to six years of suspense on whether she would join active politics. Her move is bound to change equations in the volatile Congress.

(AFP PHOTO)

FBI Agent Suspended in Bombing Probe

ATLANTA — A Federal Bureau of Investigation agent has been suspended and two other agents reprimanded for their roles in the questioning of security guard Richard Jewell after last year's bombing of Centennial Olympic Park, local media reported yesterday.

FBI agent Don Johnson was given five days' suspension without pay and special agents-in-charge Woody Johnson and David Tubbs received a "letter of censure," the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and WSB-TV said.

FBI spokesman Jay Spadafore declined to comment on the report on Wednesday.

Jewell was initially identified as a suspect in the Olympic Park bombing, but was later cleared by Federal prosecutors. His lawyers claim Jewell was questioned days after the bombing under the pretext of assisting in making a training video. (Reuter)

Sinn Fein, British Officials Reopen N.Irish Talks

BELFAST — The IRA's political wing Sinn Fein and British officials began talks yesterday, ending a 16-month freeze on official contacts in a bid to revive Northern Ireland peace hopes shattered by sectarian violence.

Martin McGuinness, chief negotiator for Sinn Fein, met civil servants for the first time since the Irish Republican Army scrapped a cease-fire in February 1996 after 17 months by setting off a huge bomb in east London.

The meeting followed attempts by Britain's new Labour government, which ousted the Conservatives in May 1 elections, to reinvigorate the stalled Northern Ireland peace process.

"From our point of view in Sinn Fein there is a very strong desire to break the impasse and to move forward to a fair and just political settlement on this island," McGuinness told reporters.

"You will also appreciate that we are dealing now with a new British government which has inherited the present situation."

McGuinness was leading a four-member delegation to the talks at Belfast's Stormont Castle, headquarters of British rule in Northern Ireland.

The IRA has waged guerrilla war since 1969 to reunite the province with Ireland proper. Northern Ireland's majority Protestant population favors continued ties with Britain. (Reuter)

Oklahoma City Prosecutors Ready to Rest Case

DENVER — Prosecutors in the Oklahoma City bombing trial were expected to rest their case on Wednesday after weaving a web of evidence to tie defendant Timothy McVeigh to the attack.

The prosecution has presented more than 130 witnesses in a little more than three weeks, portraying McVeigh as a right- wing extremist who hoped to spark a second American revolution by bombing the Oklahoma City Federal Building.

McVeigh, 29, has pleaded not guilty to murder and conspiracy charges stemming from the April 19, 1995, bombing — the worst attack on civilians in U.S. history — that killed 168 people, including 19 children. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Federal judge Richard Matsch said at the end of Tuesday's court session that the government was expected to rest its case some time on Wednesday. (Reuter)

Burmese Government Arresting Suu Kyi's Supporters

RANGOON, Burma — Burma's military government has begun arresting supporters of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi to break up another attempted congress of her political party, one of her aides said Wednesday.

Several of Suu Kyi's party members were taking refuge in her lakeside compound in hopes of avoiding arrest, said Kyi Maung, vice chairman of the National League for Democracy, who added that the military began rounding people up on Monday.

Burmese intelligence officials, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, confirmed that arrests were taking place but would not say how many democratic activists had been detained.

"Arrests of several NLD supporters and members of Parliament have started in various parts of the country," Kyi Maung said.

The sweep by the authorities came to fight on the day U.S. economic sanctions went into effect against Burma because of the military's increased repression against the democracy movement led by Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

The events appear to be a replay of the mass arrests of Suu Kyi's supporters ahead of a similar party congress in May 1996. (AP)

Rival Activists Clash in Fresh Indonesian Election Unrest

JAKARTA — New clashes erupted in the Indonesian capital yesterday between rival supporters of the ruling Golkar Party and Muslim activists a day after one person was killed in one of the worst outbreaks of campaign violence, witnesses said.

A convoy of Golkar supporters and hundreds of students of the National Islamic Institute (IAIN) pelted each other with stones in south Jakarta, they said.

The clash was quickly quelled by over 100 armed police and military personnel.

Sources said the Golkar crowd, on its way to a nearby campaign meeting, was angered after the students refused to display the Golkar finger sign. One Golkar supporter was beaten by the students, they said.

An IAIN campus in the central Java town of Yogyakarta was attacked by Golkar supporters over the weekend.

The IAIN is a state-owned education institute for Islamic studies. The clashes came after a bystander at Tuesday's rioting in south Jakarta, 20-year-old Adam Khaeruddin, died at nearby Singa Hospital from a gunshot wound to his stomach, the *Republika Daily* reported. (AFP)

Bulgarian Parliament Elects Kostov as Premier

SOFIA — Bulgaria's Parliament appointed yesterday the leader of the Union of Democratic Forces Ivan Kostov as prime minister.

Of 233 deputies present, 179 deputies voted for, 54 were against and none abstained.

Kostov is keeping on five ministers from the interim cabinet, including Deputy Premier and Industry Minister Alexander Bozhkov and Interior Minister Bogomil Bonev who will continue his campaign against crime and high-level corruption.

Defense Minister Georgi Ananiev, Transport Minister Wilhelm Kraus and Social Policy Minister Ivan Neikov retain their jobs.

Muravei Radev, 50, head of the previous Parliament's Budget and Finance Committee, is finance minister, and UDF Deputy Leader Nadezhda Mihailova as foreign minister.

The former ruling Socialists, who now hold 58 seats and were widely blamed by Bulgarians for the country's economic collapse, voted against Kostov's cabinet. (Reuter)

هكذا من الأصل

Syrian Businessmen Hold Trade Talks in Iraq



BAGHDAD, Iraq (May 19): A delegation of the Union of Syrian Chambers of Commerce (USCC) arrives in Baghdad, on the first such visit to Iraq since the beginning of the 1980s. A USCC official told AFP that the group will ask Iraqi officials to import Syrian goods as part of the Iraqi-UN-food-for-oil agreement.

(AFP PHOTO)

BAGHDAD — A Syrian business delegation held talks here Tuesday aimed at renewing economic and trading links with Iraq, on the first such mission in almost two decades.

Delegates from the Union of Syrian Chambers of Commerce (USCC) said they met Commerce Minister Mohammad Mohdi Saleh, Industry Minister Adnan Abdel Majid, and Zuhair Abdel Ghafur Yunes, president of Iraq's Chambers of Commerce.

"Our visit aims to reactivate commercial and industrial cooperation between the two brotherly countries," said Rateb Shallah, president of the USCC, on arrival Monday for a three-day visit.

Shallah said the visit — coinciding with Syrian condemnation of a Turkish incursion into northern Iraq — was approved by the Damascus government and that "the signing of an economic and industrial accord is possible."

"There is no form of cooperation between Iraq and Syria at present. It is time for the two countries to renew economic and industrial links... for the good of their peoples," said the head of the seven-member team.

A USCC official said Monday in Damascus that the group will ask Iraqi officials to import Syrian goods under the "oil-for-food" accord between Baghdad and the United Nations.

The accord allows Iraq, which has been under a UN embargo for six years, to sell limited amounts of crude oil with which to buy food and medicine.

Syrian officials, however, cautioned that there was no sign of a rapid thaw in relations between the two neighbors which are ruled by rival wings of the Baath Party.

In the early 1980s, Syria closed its land borders with Iraq which it blamed for a series of explosions in Syria at the time.

Relations have been limited to what Damascus has called "technical" meetings, such as those on the Euphrates river, which originates in Turkey before flowing through both Arab countries.

The Syrian visit is the latest in a long list of foreign delegations traveling to Baghdad in search of contracts since Iraq resumed limited oil exports in December.

A strict UN embargo was slapped on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. (AFP)

Lebanese Trade Fair Opens With Worldwide Participation

BEIRUT — A total of 500 companies from 28 countries are taking part in the Third Lebanon Project Trade Fair, which opened on Tuesday in Beirut.

The fair, organized by International Fairs and Promotions (IFP) under the patronage of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri, runs until May 24 in the old city center of the Lebanese capital.

Last year's event attracted 20,000 business professionals, and organizers hope that figure will be exceeded by this year's event which is giving top billing to new construction technology and development of the environment.

Lebanon is currently undergoing a huge rebuilding process following the 1975-1990 civil war.

Three years ago the government launched a 10-year rebuilding plan with planned expenditure of $18 billion, while the private sector is expected to invest $30 billion in the reconstruction process. (AFP)

Japan Trade Surplus More Than Doubles in April

TOKYO — Japan's contentious trade surplus more than doubled in April from a year earlier, the government announced on Monday, as the weaker yen boosted exports and a tax rise dampened domestic demand.

The particularly sensitive surplus with the United States, which has already been grumbling about the growing trade imbalance between the two countries, also showed a dramatic surge.

Ministry of Finance (MOF) data released on Monday showed that Japan's overall customs-cleared trade surplus grew 163.7 percent to 831.48 billion yen ($7.23 billion) in April.

The trade surplus with the United States surged even more strongly, rising 174.1 percent from a year earlier to 468.97 billion yen ($4.07 billion).

The figures were not adjusted for seasonal factors.

The dollar briefly slipped close to 115 yen on the trade figures but the rise was largely within expectations and the greenback soon bounced back to trade at around 115.60 yen, the same level as in late-U.S. trading on Friday.

"The market was looking for a rather sharp increase for the whole month. The market had discounted this sort of gain," Andrew Shipley, an economist at Schroders Japan, told Reuters financial television.

A Finance Ministry official said the figures were affected by a rise in Japan's consumption tax in April, which weighed on car imports, while exports have been growing. The consumption tax rate rose from three to five percent on April 1.

The outlook for Japan's trade account will depend on foreign exchange rates, crude oil prices and economic conditions both at home and abroad, he said.

A relatively weaker yen compared with exchange rates a year earlier has fuelled a rise in exports, pushing Japan's trade surplus back up again after a long period of decline and threatening to inflame trade tensions.

"The surplus can be expected to rise over the next few months but it is too early to judge if rises of 163.7 percent will continue — they are likely to be much smaller. The yen has risen a bit but it will take some time before this has an effect, around two to three months," said Shuji Shirota of Yamaichi Research Institute of Securities and Economics.

The figures were in line with a Reuters poll of economists, which had produced an average forecast for the overall surplus of 821.8 billion yen ($7.14 billion), against a 315.3 billion yen ($2.74 billion) surplus a year ago. The forecasts for the surplus had ranged from 543 billion yen ($4.72 billion) to 940 billion yen ($8.17 billion). (Reuter)

Dollar Higher, Stocks Lower

TOKYO — The U.S. dollar was higher against the yen in early trading Wednesday in Tokyo after the U.S. Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged. Share prices on the Tokyo stock exchange fell moderately.

The dollar was traded at 113.18 yen in early morning, up 0.76 yen from late Tuesday in Tokyo and also above its late New York level of 113.04 yen overnight.

Traders said short-covering buying lifted the dollar in Tokyo early Wednesday, although they said market sentiment favors selling the U.S. currency on rallies.

On Tuesday, the dollar plunged to as low as 111.98 yen in Tokyo, its lowest level since December 6, following a report that Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party wants higher interest rates. The report was later downplayed.

The Fed's policy-making committee decided Tuesday that the federal funds rate, an important benchmark, would remain at 5.50 percent. Many traders expected the Fed to raise the rate as a preemptive strike against inflationary pressures in the economy.

Higher interest rates tend to make dollar-denominated assets more valuable, while higher rates abroad make a nation's currency less attractive to investors.

On the stock market, stocks continued their slide from the previous day. Some investors retreated to the sidelines to see developments on the foreign exchange market, traders said. (AP)

UN Food Deal Brings Little Relief to Iraqi Economy

BAGHDAD — The truckloads of food and medicine arriving in Iraq under a UN humanitarian deal have brought little relief to the sanctions-hit economy as food prices continue to spiral.

"The health of the economy is deteriorating day by day, with runaway inflation crushing the people and the price of goods rising relentlessly," Iraqi economist Humam al-Shammah said.

Shammah, a professor of public finance in Baghdad, said official statistics no longer exist but that Iraq's gross domestic product stands at only one-tenth of its 1989 level of around $40 billion.

The Iraqi dinar — worth $3.4 before the 1991 Persian Gulf war — was changing hands at 1,400 dinars to the dollar last week.

The United Nations slapped an oil and trade embargo on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, a bitter blow for the country which was OPEC's third biggest oil producer at 3.14 million barrels per day.

A UN oil-for-food deal, which came into force in December, allows Iraq to sell $2 billion of oil every six months to raise money for food and medicine.

UN spokesman Eric Falt said 660,000 tons of food had arrived in Iraq so far while the first truckload of medicine was delivered by Jordan earlier this month.

But Iraq, which claims it has lost some $150 billion because of the oil embargo, is not allowed to resume full exports until it has convinced UN arms inspectors it has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction and the programs to produce more.

Before the Persian Gulf war, oil represented 95 percent of Iraqi exports and more than 50 percent of its GDP, Shammah told AFP.

He said the country's industry, which relied on oil and was booming before the Persian Gulf war, has been "seriously affected by the economic sanctions" which have deprived them of much of their raw material and spare parts.

"Industry is currently running at only 10 percent of its pre-war capacity, which has forced Iraqis to turn more towards agriculture to make up their losses and combat rising prices," Shammah said.

Another Iraqi economist, who asked not to be named, said the distribution of the newly-arrived food and medical supplies would "help Iraqis to survive" but no more than that.

"Why should we be enthusiastic or happy? Prices will not go down," he said.

He said the strengthening of the dinar which accompanied the first truckloads of food supplies had only been temporary.

"The dollar exchanged at 1,000 dinars, but quickly rose to 1,380 dinars as the Iraqis realized that the food supplies did not meet their most basic needs and resumed a rush on the dollar," he said.

President Saddam Hussein said in February that Iraq would maintain the austerity measures in place since 1995 to cope with inflation and rising prices.

The average monthly salary is only 4,000 to 4,500 dinars, less than $5 at current rates. The embargo has ruined many Iraqis who have had to sell most of their possessions to survive.

"We are used to this catastrophic situation and we try to squeeze the maximum profit possible from our resources," said one Baghdad banker who also requested anonymity.

"Even if the sanctions are lifted we will have a long haul ahead of us to improve the economy," he said. (AFP)





Shahid

By: Ayatollah Murtada Mutahhari

Part 11

The title, *"Sayyid al-Shuhada"* was first applied to Hamza. After the tragedy of the tenth of Muharram, the *shahadat* of Imam Hussein (AS) overshadowed all other cases of *shahadat*, and the title was transferred to him. No doubt this epithet is still applied to Hamza, but he was the *Sayyid al-Shuhada* of his time, whereas Imam Hussein (AS) is the *Sayyid al-Shuhada* of all time, just as the virgin Mary was the exemplar of the women in her time, and the lady of light, Fatimah (S), is the exemplar of women of all time.

We deem it necessary at this juncture to refer briefly to the philosophy of lamentation over a *shahid*. Nowadays, many people object to the weeping for Imam Hussein. Some of them assert that this custom is the result of incorrect thinking and a wrong conception of *shahadat*. Moreover, it has had bad repercussions, and is responsible for the backwardness and decline of the people who had adopted it. The present writer remembers that when he was a student of Qom, he read a book by Mohammad Masud, a well-known writer of those days. In it he drew a comparison between the Shi'a custom of weeping for Imam Hussein and the Christian practice of celebrating the crucifixion (according to their own belief) of Jesus Christ with festivities. The author wrote along these lines:

It is to be noticed that one nation weeps for its *shahid* because it regards *shahadat* as something undesirable and regrettable, whereas another nation rejoices at the death of its *shahid* because it regards his *shahadat* as a great achievement and a matter of pride. A nation which weeps and mourns for a thousand years naturally loses its vitality and becomes weak and cowardly, whereas the nation which celebrates the *shahadat* of its hero becomes powerful, courageous and self-sacrificing. For one nation *shahadat* means failure. Its reaction is weeping and lamenting which leads to weakness, helplessness and submissiveness. But for the other nation, *Shahadat* means triumph, and hence, its reaction is joy and rejoicing, which bolsters up its morale.

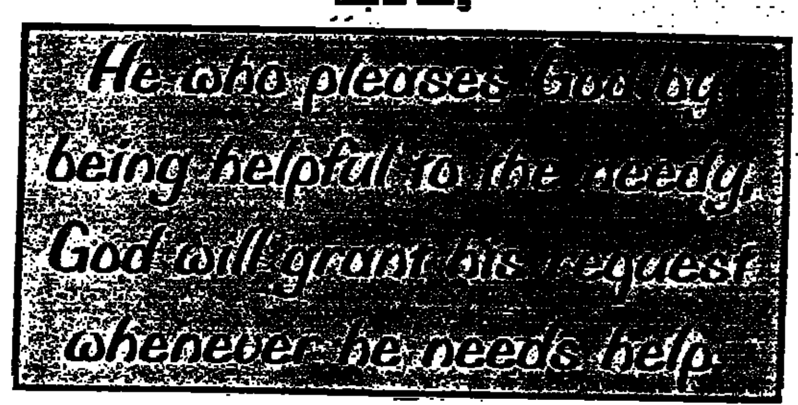
This is the gist of the criticism made by this author. The same arguments are advanced by other critics also. We would like to analyze this question and prove that the festive celebration of *shahadat* by the Christians stems from their individualistic approach, and the weeping for the *shuhada* by the Muslims stems from their social approach.

Of course, we cannot justify the attitude of those of our masses who look at Imam Hussein (AS) only as a person to whom a great injustice was done, and who was killed just for nothing. They express profound regret at his death, but pay little attention to his heroic and praise-worthy performance. We have already denounced this attitude. We intend to explain why the Imams have exhorted weeping for a *shahid*, and what the real philosophy of this exhortation is.

(To be Contd.)



مَنْ أرادَاللهُ تَبارَكَ وَ تَعالى بِالصَّنيعَةِ الى اَخيهِ كافاهُ بِها وَقتَ حاجَتِه



THE ASHURA UPRISING



The great personality who was nourished on the gist of divine inspiration in the homes of the Master of Messengers, Mohammad Mustafa (S) and Ali Murtaza (AS) and raised on the lap of Seddiqa Tahereh (S), rose up and, by his matchless sacrifice and his Divine Movement, caused a great event to take place and overthrew the oppressors' palace and thus saved the school of Islam.

The Captives' Caravan

Part 4

Zainab, who was trying to control herself all along and silently suffer the insults that were being hurled at her, according to the promise given to her brother at the time of his departure in Karabala, for once lost her temper. Addressing Obeidullah Ibne Ziad, she said: "O son of Ziad, we are the sisters Hussein, and grand-daughters of Muhammed (A.D.) whom you acknowledge as your Prophet. You and the other henchmen of Yazid have, for the sake of worldly gains, flouted all the principles of Islam, have desecrated the dead bodies of the martyrs, despite the fact that it is strictly forbidden by religion, and subjected us to the worst kind of ill-treatment, although the Prophet had enjoined on all the believers to treat captives, and particularly women and children, with sympathy and consideration. Today you are gloating over your success and rejoicing; today you are thinking that you can insult and humiliate us to your heart's content because there is nobody to say a word to you on our behalf, because you see us in this helpless condition, with none to befriend us, none to protest against the treatment you are meting out to us. But O tyrant, let me warn you that you will find your success ephemeral and very soon the Wrath of God will descend on you and those whose cause you are espousing. Very soon Nemesis will overtake you and the other who have ruthlessly killed my brother and all the members of our family without the least justification, without the least compunction, simply because they stood steadfast in their belief; because they refused to accept Yazid, whose stooge you are, as the spiritual leader of the Muslims on account of his being a known profligate, who has flouted all principles of Islam, trampled under foot alley ethical concepts and reduced all human being to an abject state."

Obeidullah Ibne Ziad was stunned by this bold address of Zainab. He had never thought that she would dare to speak out so boldly in the helpless condition she was in. He had thought that she would be terrorized by the awe-inspriting atmosphere of his court, particularly at a time when she had suffered such calamities and cruel blows and undergone so much hardship. Not only he but all the courtiers who were present in his court became speechless and listened with rapt attention to her peroration. After a while, he looked round him to see the effect which her speech had produced on those present in the court. He could see that everyone listening to her was hearing every word she was uttering with rapt attention. From the look on their faces, he could discern that they could not help admiring her wonderful courage in speaking out the truth in spite of her helpless position. He thought that many must be comparing her plain and forthright speech with the addresses of her illustrious father delivered to vast congregations from the pulpit in the mosque of Kufa. For a moment he got scared that, if she continued to speak in this vein, she might not be able to sway the masses. He tried to stop her by shouting at the top of his voice and ordering her to hold her tongue and threatened to visit the worst kind of punishment imaginable on her and the other captives if she failed to hold her silent.

If Obeidullah Ibne Ziad had counted on silencing Zainab by violence, he found himself mistaken. Undaunted by such threats, Zainab continued to speak with vehemence. She recapitulated how her brother and the other members of her family had dissociated themselves from all power politics and devoted their lives to the service of mankind; to helping the poor and downtrodden people; to befriending the widows and orphans. She contrasted their ways of living with those of Yazid and his henchmen, how the latter had abandoned all sense of decency and indulged in vices which would disgrace even the meanest of mankind; how Yazid had by this utter disregard of all sense of decency, in spite of claiming to be the "Leader of the Faithful," cast a slur on Islam itself; how his preaching and precepts had demoralized all those who were looking to him as their king, and spiritual leader. She eloquently narrated the inhuman atrocities perpetrated by Yazid's forces in Karbala and how they had abandoned all humanitarian principles and sense of decency.

Her words were sinking into the minds of all who were present there and, though most of them had sold their souls for a mess of pottage, they could not hell admitting to themselves that every word of what she had said was fully justified. Several of those present in court were moved to tears. One of the aged companions of the Prophet, Ziad bin Arkan who was blind, rose to admonish Obeidullah Ibne Ziad for subjecting the Prophet's family to such indignities.

(To be Contd.)

IMAM HUSSEIN IBN ALI (AS)

PART 12

With his sharp awareness, he defines the different levels of the relationship with Allah. He says:

"Some people serve Allah desiring (His rewards). It is the worship of merchants. Some people serve Allah out of fear. It is the worship of slaves. And some people serve Allah out of gratitude. This is the worship of the free. It is the best kind of worship."

He addressed the people, prior to the battle of Karbala,' defining the characteristics of the Ummayyad rule, and analyzing the political and administrative situation from an Islamic point of view. He said:

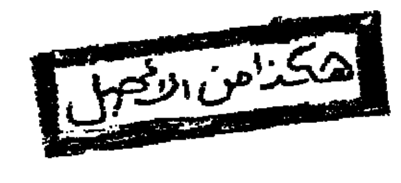
"... O people! the Prophet of Allah (S) had said: 'Whoever witnesses an unjust ruler considering the prohibitions of Allah as permissible, breaking the covenant of Allah, opposing the practices of the Prophet of Allah (S), treating His servant sinfully and cruelly, and had seen all these misdeeds but did not oppose him by words or actions, Allah surely will punish him as He wills.'

"Certainly these people have come to staunchly obey Satan, and given up obeying the Compassionate. They showed mischief, stopped acting in accordance with Islamic laws, took Muslims' property to themselves, made the haram designated by Allah, halal, and turned His halal to haram. I am more entitled than anyone else (to make the change). Your letters arrived, and your envoys came to me carrying your pledge of allegiance that you will not hand me over to my enemy, nor will you fail me. Should you stick to your pledge of allegiance, you have surely made the right decision. I am Hussein bin Ali (AS), and the son of Fatimah (S), the daughter of the Messenger of Allah (S). I am, myself, with you, and my family is with yours. You find a good example in me. But, however, if you will not hold onto your pledge of allegiance, break your convenant, and throw off my pledge of allegiance, then, by Allah, it is not the first time you do it. You did it with my father, and you have done it with my brother, and my cousin Muslim bin Aqeel. He is certainly gullible who is deceived by you. You are missing your luck and losing your lot. He who breaks his oath, breaks it at his own peril. Allah will certainly compensate me if you leave me."

These are only scattered small examples of his great thought which occupies the center of original, serene Islam. Should the dear reader tend to know more about Imam Hussein (AS), he can refer to the books which dealt with his life. He will find out himself how deep and great were Imam Hussein's (AS) thought and faith.

(To be Contd.)







New Lung Cancer Treatment Shows Higher Survival

DENVER — An aggressive treatment that combines two chemotherapy drugs with radiation therapy appears to dramatically increase the three-year survival rate of lung cancer patients, according to preliminary data released this week.

Dr. Chandra Belani of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute said the treatment could become the new standard of care in lung cancer, one of the hardest cancers to treat, if further tests confirm his findings. Belani presented his study at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in Denver.

While doctors already treat lung cancer patients with a combination of radiation therapy and chemotherapy, they do not administer the treatments at the same time for fear the combination will exacerbate the side effects.

Dr. Belani said he found that giving the patient all three treatments from day one increased the side effects somewhat, but not significantly.

"The message here is that this early aggressive, well tolerated treatment appears to save a significant number of lives," Dr. Belani said.

His study involved 38 patients with stage three non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of lung cancer. Stage three patients are those whose cancer has advanced locally in the chest but has not yet metastasized.

The patients were given radiation therapy combined with the tumor-shrinking agents taxol and paraplatin. They showed a one-year survival rate of 63 percent, versus 50 percent for those receiving the current standard of care; and a two-year survival rate of 54 percent, compared with about 35 percent in patients receiving the radiation and the chemotherapy separately.

The most dramatic results were seen in patients followed over three years, when the survival rate remained around 54 percent in the test group, compared with 30 percent with the existing standard of care.

"I was very surprised," Dr. Belani told Reuters after he presented the data. "I had my statistician run it three times."

Dr. Belani cautioned that since the trial involved such a small number of patients, it would have to be repeated in larger test groups. But he said if his findings were confirmed, the new combination could be a breakthrough in the long-term treatment of lung cancer. Despite improvements in near-term survival rates, the five-year survival rate for lung cancer has remained stubbornly low, at around 13 percent, for more than 20 years.

By combining the therapies, doctors can subject the cancer tumor to radiation up to 56 days earlier than in the current treatment, which administers the chemotherapy over a period of six weeks to three months, and then begins with the radiation.

Side effects of both treatments include reduced white blood cell count and oral ulcers.

Some 170,000 americans each year are diagnosed with lung cancer, which is responsible for one of every four cancer deaths in the United States. *(Reuter)*

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

IN 1951, John Boaz INVENTED A HAIR-CUTTING HELMET THAT USED ELECTRIC COILS TO BURN THE HAIR TO THE DESIRED LENGTH!

FORMER FBI HEAD J. Edgar Hoover ONCE GAVE HIS MOTHER A CANARY THAT HAD BEEN BRED BY THE PRISONER "THE BIRDMAN of ALCATRAZ"!

IN 1840, DURING A THUNDERSTORM, THE BOLTED IRON DOOR of Eddystone lighthouse in England BURST OPEN FROM INSIDE DUE TO THE PNEUMATIC PULL OF THE WAVES!

Adhesive Found Useful Substitute to Stitches

CHICAGO — Researchers said a "superglue"-like adhesive could be a more economical and convenient way to close cuts that normally would require stitches.

A university of Michigan at Ann Arbor study examined 130 adults with 136 lacerations and found the cosmetic results of both treatments were roughly equal after three months.

The advantage of the adhesive was that it did not require a bothersome painkilling shot or a return visit to remove the sutures, the researchers said.

The adhesive compound, octylcyanoacrylate, is similar to the popular "superglue" used to repair broken objects but has not received U.S. government approval. A form of the adhesive has been used extensively in Canada without problems.

The adhesive should not be used for cuts on the body's joints where flexing could loosen the bond or in areas that undergo frequent washing, the researchers said. But unlike a stitched laceration, the adhesive would not have to be kept completely dry.

U.S. emergency physicians stitch up roughly eleven million traumatic wounds each year.

"Our study...demonstrates the effectiveness and advantages of this new, fast, and relatively painless wound closure that may replace the need to suture millions of lacerations a year," study author James Quinn wrote in the *Journal of the American Medical Association.* *(Reuter)*

THOUGHT

A man who wants to act virtuously in every way, necessarily comes to grief among so many who are not virtuous.

Machiavelli

PRAYER

Noon	13:01
Evening	20:31
Dawn (tomorrow)	04:14
Sunrise (tomorrow)	05:54

Loss of Smell May Offer Clues About Parkinson's

LONDON — Most patients with parkinson's disease have trouble smelling, which could offer clues to the cause and diagnosis of the disease, British researchers reported on this week.

Neurologist Christopher Hawkes and colleagues at Leeds general infirmary said tests comparing 96 parkinson's patients with 96 healthy volunteers showed measurable damage to the olfactory, or smelling, system.

Smell was impaired in 70 to 90 percent of parkinson's patients, with damage in the olfactory bulb, which links the nasal passages and the brain, they found.

"Odors that were most readily misidentified were lemon, pizza, wintergreen, rose and clove," they wrote in a report in the British Medical Association's *Journal of Neurology*, neurosurgery and psychiatry.

Smell tests or inspection of the olfactory bulb could be used to help diagnose parkinson's and other brain-damaging diseases such as Alzheimer's, they suggested.

Alzheimer's, the brain-wasting illness that causes dementia and death, is also known to affect smell.

But how can a brain disease do this?

"One possibility is that parkinson's disease and perhaps Alzheimer's disease might be caused by a virus or chemical agent that gains entry to the central nervous system via the nose," wrote the researchers.

They cited reports that showed the herpes virus could get into the brain through the nose.

It could also be that the loss of smell is simply a progression of the brain damage caused by parkinson's.

Then again there could be a genetic component. Some patients with parkinson's have a defect in the p-450 gene, which in monkeys is found in large concentrations in the olfactory bulb.

U.S. figures show that parkinson's is the second most common brain-wasting disease after Alzheimer's, affecting about one percent of the population. It is marked by a shortage of the neurotransmitter dopamine, a chemical important for carrying messages between nerve cells affecting movement.

Victims, who cannot be cured, can suffer shaking, loss of speech and other symptoms.

(Reuter)

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS

M3	I1	I1	E1	F4	L1	R1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
T1	T1	I1	S1	N1	S1	I1		RACK 2
C3	R1	S1	A1	V4	I1	I1	1st Letter Double	RACK 3
P3	T1	E1	I1	W4	U1	O1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4
D2	N1	N1	A1	I1	G2	E1		RACK 5

PAR SCORE 130-140

by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL ______
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

5-7-95

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

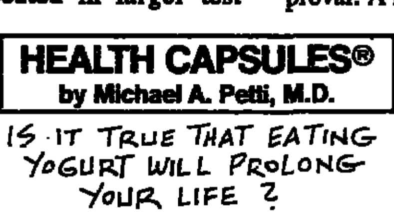
D2	A1	M3	N1	I1	F4	Y4	RACK 1 =	66
N1	I1	C3	E1	T1	Y4		RACK 2 =	14
P3	E1	N1	G2	U1	I1	N1	RACK 3 =	64
S1	E1	E1	P3	A1	G2	E1	RACK 4 =	60
							JUDD'S TOTAL	204

PAR SCORE 130-140

5-6-95

HEALTH CAPSULES®

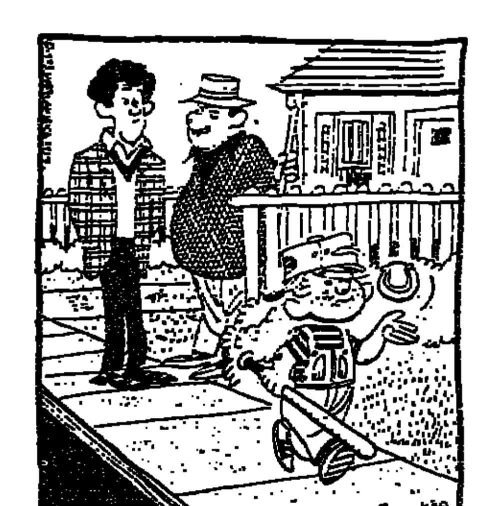
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.



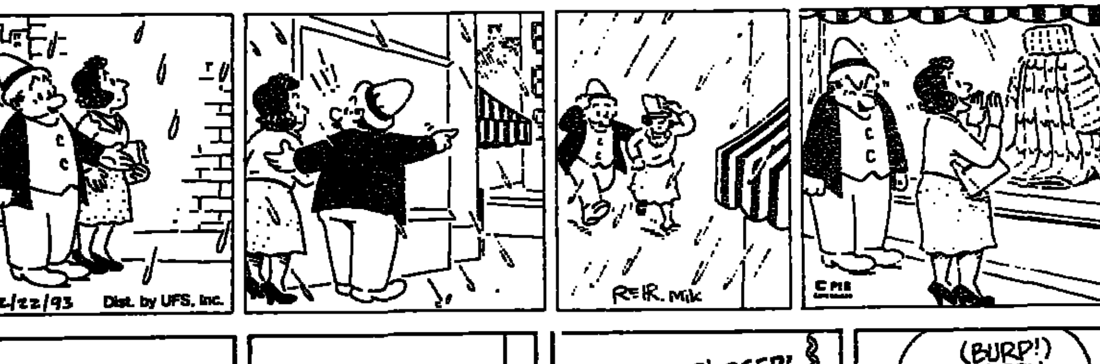
Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

DENNIS THE MENACE

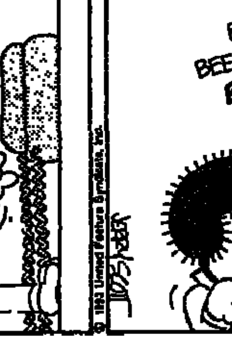
by Hank Ketcham



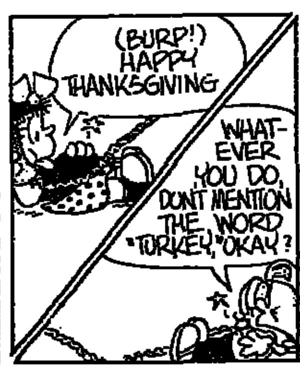
"HE LOOKS INNOCENT, WHICH PROVES THAT LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING."











PORTS AND SHIPPING ORGANIZATION
TENDER 76/EH/333



PSO

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT P.S.O INTENDS TO TENDER THE PURCHASE OF: 3 UNITS OF 120 TONS MOBILE CRANES.

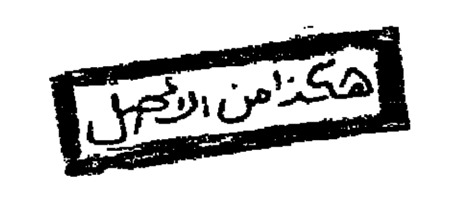
INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO RECEIVE THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM GROUND FLOOR, SECTION OF TECHNICAL & ENGINEERING DEPT. NO. 16, SHAHID SAIDI ALLEY, BETWEEN NEJATOLLAHI & HAFEZ, ENGHELAB AVE., TEHRAN-IRAN.

AGAINST A RECEIPT OF 50,000 RIALS PAID TO ACC. NO. 822 WITH CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN TOGETHER WITH A FORMAL REPRESENTATION LETTER ALL WORKING DAYS FROM 9 TO 11 A.M. BY THE DATE OF THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT.

ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED LATEST BY 10 A.M. LOCAL TIME ON JULY 15, 1997.

ENVELOPES SHALL BE OPENED IN PRESENCE OF THE BIDDERS' REPRESENTATIVES ONE HOUR LATER ON THE SAME DAY.

Faculty Position
Biomedical Eng



Sri Lanka Offensive Unlikely to Usher Peace

COLOMBO — The latest offensive by Sri Lankan troops may succeed in reopening a key north-south highway but will do little to end the country's 13-year-old ethnic war, analysts said on Wednesday.

They said the offensive, launched last week in the northern Wanni heartland of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), would weaken the rebels militarily but also drive them away from moves to bring peace.

"It will no doubt be a great achievement if the army can clear the Colombo-Jaffna highway," said Karunasena Kodituwakku, a member of parliament from the main opposition United National Party (UNP).

"But I doubt if it will draw us any closer to a peaceful settlement. Because any peace achieved without the LTTE will not be a durable peace," Kodituwakku told Reuters.

Sri Lankan troops launched one of their biggest offensives against the LTTE last week from Vavuniya, 220 km (135 miles) north of the capital Colombo.

The offensive, aimed at opening a land supply route linking Vavuniya with the Jaffna Peninsula, about 100 km (60 miles) further north, has carved fresh inroads into the Wanni, military officials have said. The main north-south highway has been cut by the fighting between the LTTE and government forces.

The LTTE want an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of the predominantly Sinhalese island. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war but the LTTE say the toll is higher.

Jaffna, the rebels' former stronghold and the capital of their would be homeland, is now under government control.

"Though the offensive is unlikely to deal the LTTE a militarily devastating blow, it will succeed in weakening them in numbers and in terms of the territory they control," said political analyst Dayan Jayatilake.

"But the LTTE is unlikely to negotiate from a position of weakness. So if the long-term strategy is to force them to the negotiating table, it will not happen," said Jayatilake, who is editor of the influential Lanka *Guardian* magazine.

Peace talks between the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga and the LTTE broke down in 1995 after the rebels blew up two naval boats.

The LTTE have scotched recent reports that they had sent delegates to initiate peace talks with Colombo, spurred by an agreement signed last month by the government and the opposition UNP to work together to end the ethnic conflict.

"We deny that we have made any efforts to send any emissaries to Colombo to have discussions with the government or the opposition or anybody," the LTTE's international spokesman, Anton Rajah, told Reuters from London on Tuesday.

"If the LTTE is unwilling to come for talks, then there is no other alternative by go on the offensive," Kodituwakku said.

(Reuter)

Poll Shows Bloc & Liberals Level in Quebec

QUEBEC CITY (Reuter) — A poll released on Tuesday showed the separatist bloc Quebecois and Prime Minister Jean Chretien's liberals neck and neck in the French-speaking province of Quebec ahead of Canada's June 2 national election.

The poll, conducted by the Crop Firm for the TVA television network and the Montreal newspaper La Presse shows that if an election had been held this week, 38 percent of Quebecers would have voted for the bloc Quebecois while 37 percent would have voted for the liberals.

Twenty percent would have voted for the Conservative Party. Seventeen percent of those interviewed said they were still undecided.

Asked who they thought has had the best electoral campaign, 31 percent of Quebecers chose Jean Charest of the Conservatives while 22 percent chose Chretien. Only nine percent said separatist leader Gilles Duceppe of the bloc Quebecois had the best campaign.

Thirty-one percent of Quebecers felt Jean Charest was the best leader to defend Quebec's interests in Ottawa. Twenty-six percent said they preferred Duceppe to defend them in Canada's house of commons and 22 percent chose Chretien.

The poll, conducted between May 6 and 10, has a margin of error of three percent. It is accurate 19 times out of 20. a total of 1014 people were surveyed.

(AFP)

France Sidelined on Europe, Even With Elections

PARIS — You can imagine what the historians would say.

If Monetary Union collapsed, they would say it was already obvious in 1997, when Europe lost its vision and stumbled into a blind obsession with the mechanics of making a single currency.

Germany gave up its moral mantle to raid its gold reserves, European politicians quarrelled over public finances to the nearest 10th of a percentage point, and Italy was determined to gatecrash the party whether it was invited or not.

In the midst of all that, French President Jacques Chirac, himself a relatively recent apostle of a single currency hatched before he took office in 1995, called a parliamentary election to strengthen his hand in leading France and Europe through the monetary maze.

But none of the sense of this being a turning point in European history has surfaced in the dreary campaign for the two-round vote on May 25 and June 1.

Main French Parties Share Vision on Europe

In part, that is because the mainstream parties have a common vision of Europe. Commentators believe that whether the ruling center-right or opposition Socialists win, France will remain committed to launching the new euro on time in 1999.

"France probably more than any other country does not want EMU to be delayed," UBS economist Darren Williams said.

It put up with years of growth-choking high interest rates to keep the Franc pegged to the mark, seen here as the linchpin of Economic and Monetary Union, and is unlikely to risk this now that the cost of credit has finally come down.

Both main parties also want a strong political dimension in Europe, calling for a European economic government which would counterbalance the power of the future European Central Bank.

"The euro must be an instrument for growth. That means two things. First we do not leave it to the European Central Bank to do everything but we have the European economic government we have been seeking for months and are beginning to get accepted," Prime Minister Alain Juppe told French radio this week.

Nor are the big players that far apart on their views on how to meet the Maastricht Treaty criteria on budget deficits.

While the Socialists pledge not to impose new austerity just to bring the deficit down to 3.0 percent of gross domestic product, they nonetheless preach commitment to tight fiscal policies.

And the center-right, wary of social unrest, seems unlikely to insist on cutting spending too far either. "We have never insisted on 3.0 percent," one official said.

So despite an attempt by the Socialist Party to make Europe an election issue, the debate has failed to take off.

Markets Show Little Interest in Election

The question is one of tone rather than substance.

While Chirac and his government have kept deliberately quiet in recent months about France's view of Europe to avoid stoking german fears about giving up the mark, the Socialists are insisting on a new public discussion.

"If we have to live through a moment of high tension, and insist our demands are taken into consideration, we will do it," Henri Nallet, a former Socialist minister, told Reuters.

"We do not want to silence our demands purely in the name of European integration."

The Socialists have also called for a renegotiation of the European Union's stability pact, meant to limit budget deficits after the launch of EMU, though economists doubt they would win backing abroad for unravelling the hard-fought agreement.

"They can try to renegotiate it and they will compromise," Daiwa Institute of Research economist Bernard Godement said.

From the center-right, in turn, has come the warning that a Socialist victory would weaken France's hand in Europe.

"Cohabitation" — power-sharing between a president and government of different parties — would be an obstacle to integration, Juppe said. "It would be a shambles in Europe."

In reality, though, the impact of victory by either side might be more muted — explaining why financial markets have so far shown little interest in the election, which opinion polls have suggested the center-right will win.

Under cohabitation, the president continues to control foreign policy, and as Monetary Union approaches, decisions are increasingly being taken at the top.

But even with a center-right victory — potentially making Chirac one of the strongest leaders in Europe with a friendly parliament for the next five years — the French government is likely to remain hamstrung at home and abroad.

Domestically, it fears a repeat of crippling strikes which erupted in late 1995, sapping its will for truly radical reform.

Abroad, France has ceded center stage to Germany and Italy who are engaged in battle between Bonn's vision of a hard-core EMU with a small number of states and Rome's desire for a broad EMU with it, Spain and Portugal in at the start.

Ironically, many observers believe it was German Chancellor Helmut Kohl who helped convince Chirac to call the election a year early, persuading him this would lift uncertainty about Europe's commitment to EMU.

The decision was taken after a meeting in Bonn between Chirac and Kohl, described by one source as one of the most important in many months.

Germany Accused of Shifting Goal Posts

But since that meeting, Germany has been accused of shifting the goal posts with a plan to revalue gold reserves to bolster its public finances. Critics say this undermines its insistence on a strict interpretation of Maastricht, free of one-off gambits.

Its plan has also raised new fears of domestic protests or a chain reaction of budgetary tricks elsewhere, maybe even threatening an EMU delay even as France gets itself politically and economically ready for the 1999 launch.

France's main EU role in recent years has been through its special partnership with Germany and it is seen just as likely to see its influence weakened by any fall from grace by Bonn.

"The reason France exists in this (currency project) is to a large extent Germany," Daiwa's Godement said.

Britain's new Labour government, abandoning London's recent isolationism on Europe, has challenged that partnership by saying it wants a three-way dialog with Paris and Bonn.

And few see Chirac, who himself was believed to have flirted with the idea of rejecting EMU in its current form before his election, as the most obvious man to lead Europe into a single currency, even with a strengthened hand.

Italy, which hopes the German gold rush will help it argue its way into EMU at the start by appearing to make all financial fudges acceptable, is seen unlikely to rely too much on France to argue its case. "One of the problems France has with Italy is trying to tell Italy what to do," Godement said.

The biggest risk for Chirac may not be that he will be weakened by cohabitation, but that he, and France, could be sidelined by a bigger arguments going on elsewhere.

(Reuter)

Greenpeace Attacks European Energy Subsidies



BRUSSELS — The environmental lobby Greenpeace attacked European governments on Tuesday for granting massive subsidies to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries in spite of their commitments to protect the environment.

In spite of pledges to tackle global warming and protect the environment, Western Europe spends almost $15 billion of taxpayers' money a year to subsidize "mature, influential and environmentally damaging" industries.

But it gives less than a tenth of that to developing emerging renewable energy technologies, Greenpeace said in a report.

Governments around the world are currently preparing for talks in Kyoto, Japan in December aimed at agreeing a global strategy for cutting carbon dioxide emissions.

"There's a direct contrast between what governments promise and what they do," Greenpeace's Kirsty Hamilton told a news conference to launch the report, "energy subsidies in Europe".

The report analyses direct and indirect energy subsidies provided by the European Union, the 15 EU states, Switzerland and Norway between 1990 and 1995.

"For every dollar spent on solutions, nine dollars are spent on funding the problem," Hamilton said.

Greenpeace urged Brussels and European governments to switch subsidies from coal, gas, oil and nuclear energy to renewable technology and energy saying measures.

If the 15-member EU bloc invested just $650 million over the next 13 years — a fraction of what it spends on the fossil fuel and nuclear industries — it could install a million solar- powered homes by 2010, creating 58,000 jobs and eliminating two million tonnes of CO_2 emissions every year, Hamilton said.

The report comes a week before EU energy ministers are due to meet in Brussels to discuss ways of approaching their receding target of a 15 percent cut in CO_2 emissions by 2010.

The ministers will also examine a proposal from EU energy commissioner Christos Papoutsis to increase the share of renewables in the EU fuel mix to 12 percent by 2010, a target which both Greenpeace and the European Parliament feel is too little too late.

Germany, Britain and Belgium give the highest proportion of national subsidies to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries, according to the report, which Greenpeace commissioned from the Vrije University in Amsterdam.

The report also points to large discrepancies at EU-level.

Between 1990 and 1995, the EU provided fossil fuel and nuclear subsidies worth $531.2 million and $428.3 million respectively. EU funding for renewables and energy savings amounted to only $131.3 million and $144.9 million.

A spokesman for Papoutsis said the Greek commissioner would urge the EU ministers on May 27 to agree to measures to increase the use of renewables by 2010.

But he said it was neither feasible nor desirable to end subsidies on conventional fuels overnight.

"Does Greenpeace understand the social and economic implications for the member states which have mines...not to use coal any more?" spokesman Costas Verros said.

He said the EU was wise to use all its different energy resources while also trying to reduce their environmental impact, for example by developing "clean coal" technology.

(Reuter)

Pakistani Circus Man Snacks on Live Snakes

MULTAN, Pakistan — The circus crowd gasps as Gringo grips a snake, bites off its head and rips away its skin before sinking his teeth into the white flesh beneath.

Fortunately, the center of the ring is too far away for the audience of men, women and children packed under the big top to see the gory details of Gringo's unusual performance.

Gringo, or Jalal Khan to use his given name, uses no trickery. The snakes, and their fate, are real.

"Snake tastes like chicken," the 50-year-old circus man explains during a break in the show. "I like to eat cobras as they are very tasty and the flesh is very soft."

"I can eat snakes, lizards, frogs or any other poisonous animals," boasts Gringo, thin as the snakes he swallows.

"If anyone challenges me, I can eat a dog also. I have never been sick or felt bad after eating poisonous animals and I have never vomited either. If anyone can prove that I have vomited, I will give him 10,000 rupees ($250)," he says.

Gringo, paid 500 rupees per show at the lucky Irani circus, is all too happy to demonstrate what he calls his art in an impromptu and somewhat messy performance outside the ring, which cost the lives of one snake and one fat frog.

A second frog, tethered uncomfortably by the back legs, seemed unsure whether to be more terrified of his owner or of a surviving snake dangling around Gringo's neck.

Audiences Make Rude Remarks

Gringo, like many a true artist, is sensitive to criticism.

"The audience often misbehaves with me and passes comments about me," he complains. "But I don't care about that as I am very happy to have such a wonderful art."

He says the reptiles — he has 350 snakes at the moment, mostly provided by the circus — are a cheap addition to his diet in these days of rising food prices in Pakistan.

But Gringo feels he deserves more.

"I appeal to the government to give protection and financial support to an artist who is one of a kind in Pakistan and let him go on tour around the world," he declares.

Gringo is aware that his unique status may be at risk.

"There is another person called Munawwar in Lahore who can eat snakes," he admits reluctantly. "But I have defeated him by eating more poisonous animals than him."

Gringo, who comes from the Punjab provincial city of Faisalabad, says he was originally training as an acrobat when a former "Gringo" challenged his teacher to eat a snake.

"I accepted the challenge instead and ate a cobra. So after that he left the circus and I joined in his place."

What about Islamic injunctions against eating reptiles and scaly creatures?

"Although eating of such animals is prohibited in Islam, tell me nowadays who is eating halal meat (slaughtered in line with Islamic precepts)?" Gringo ripostes.

Gringo says he is training two students to follow the snake-eating trail he has blazed, but harbors no ambitions for his son or three daughters to take up his profession.

Mian Amjad Ali, the owner of the travelling circus, says Gringo's act elicits mixed reviews from audiences.

"Many people like the snakes item and many people are afraid and say it's not good for Muslims, but this is not a Muslim circus, it's only a circus with circus language, which is the reason I have this man," he says. "Many children like it."

Asked if he personally enjoys it, Ali grimaces.

"No, no, no. Absolutely not. No, I don't like it. I don't feel this is good, but it's only for the circus, not for me."

Ali would rather talk about his strongman and his acrobats, jugglers, lions and horses, or even better, the chimpanzee acquired from Dubai who rides a cycle and walks the tightrope.

But you can't get away from snakes at the lucky Irani circus, whose final act features a piper charming cobras as a transvestite eunuch in a red dress dances wildly round the ring. (Reuter)

U.S. Refuses Russian Request for Mir Waste Water

HOUSTON, Texas — U.S. space officials have rejected a Russian request for the shuttle Atlantis to remove waste water from the Mir space station because the request came too late, NASA said Tuesday.

Shuttle program director Frank Culbertson said Atlantis, which is docked with Mir until Wednesday, will not have the time — six to eight hours — to complete the task.

Culbertson said U.S. officials agreed to take a sample of the water to determine whether it can be treated and recycled aboard the Russian space station.

The seven shuttle astronauts and three Mir crew members meanwhile prepared for the separation of the two spacecraft, which have been docked together since Saturday.

The separation will use the European-developed laser guidance system that was tested during docking.

Atlantis delivered three tons of material for Mir, including a backup oxygen generator after the space station suffered from a series of breakdowns and technical problems with its generator.

The rendezvous allowed U.S. astronaut Michael Foale to replace Jerry Linenger, who spent 123 days with two Russian cosmonauts aboard the space station.

French astronaut Jean-Francois Clervoy is in charge of experiments inside the European biorack module with plants, tadpoles, cells, bacteria, insects and sea urchin sperm.

(AFP)

South Africa Defends Quest For Legal Rhino Horn Trade

CAPE TOWN — South Africa on Monday defended its support for legal trade in the horn of white rhino, saying this would help the survival of the species.

"The availability of a legal source of rhino horn will provide a strong disincentive to consumers to purchase horn on the black market," Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan said in reply to a question in Parliament.

"The breaking of the black market monopoly will reduce the rewards and increase the risks of illegal operations, and hence relieve poaching pressure on wild populations of all rhino species and sub-species," he said.

Rhino horn is highly sought after in Yemen, where it is used for making dagger handles, and in Asia, where it is ground up for use in traditional medicines.

Jordan said South Africa will ask the convention on international trade in endangered species (cites) at a meeting in Zimbabwe next month to allow it to investigate the establishment of a regulatory mechanism for trade in the horn of white rhino.

The request applies only to white rhino, which are breeding successfully in protected areas in South Africa, and not the black rhino, whose survival as a species is still precarious.

(Reuter)

EU Reaches Accord on "Pig Hotels"

BRUSSELS — European Union farm ministers on Tuesday struck a political deal on rules for "pig hotels" — rest centers for farm animals on marathon journeys across the continent, diplomats said.

"It was agreed by consensus," a German diplomat said, adding the European Commission was asked to examine possible special measures demanded by Britain, Denmark and Ireland for high-value breeding pigs and to report back as soon as possible.

A British official said Britain abstained from the political agreement. It can only be finalized, probably in June, after a legal text has been drafted.

"We wanted to take it further forward," the official said, adding, "It's less stressful for the animals to remain in the vehicles."

But Britain, which sees itself as a nation of animal lovers, did not want to be seen voting against animal welfare, especially as the new Labor government has adopted a more constructive approach towards Europe.

Along with the Danes and Irish, Britain had argued that the pigs did not need to be unloaded at rest centers and that this put them at risk of disease.

A European Commission spokesman said member states would have to implement the rest center rules by the end of 1998. Proposals for standards for "pig pullman" vehicles are due to be presented in the next few weeks.

The EU's executive also recently proposed linking export subsidies to animal welfare but a decision is not expected for some time due to problems over implementation.

The rest centers were part of a deal in June 1995, after five years of argument, to ease the pain of millions of animals crammed annually into lorries for trips of up to 50 hours from northern producer states to southern slaughter houses.

Swedes and other northerners have denounced transport conditions as cruel but southerners, such as Italy, protest that the new rules will raise costs, making imports of live animals uneconomic and throwing tens of thousands of people out of work.

They set a basic eight hours journey limit for cattle, pigs, sheep and other farm animals, after which they must be unloaded from their vehicles and rest for 24 hours before continuing their journeys.

The rest center rules cover animal feeding, watering, loading, unloading and disease controls.

Germany has criticized delays in agreeing minimum standards for rest centers and vehicles which have prevented implemention of the animal transport rules by an original deadline of end-1996.

The commission says the target date was unrealistic.

(Reuter)



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Child Victims Speak



DURBAN, South Africa — A terrified 10-year-old boy hugged his baby sister to his chest as he lay under his grandparents' bed listening to a gunman shoot dead his grandmother in South Africa's Zulu province six years ago.

The small boy, known only as Mdu, stared hard at his feet as he spoke about the attack on a rural homestead on Kwazulu-Natal's south coast that changed his life forever.

"My grandmother was shot in the hand and chest. The empty shells hit me on the forehead while I was hiding under the bed with my baby sister. My grandmother died right there (in the bedroom)," Mdu said in Zulu.

He could not say for sure why his grandparents were targetted, but speculated it was related to the conflict between South Africa's largest black political parties, the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

With his father dead and his mother missing, only his grandmother could afford to send him to school. Since her death in 1991 he has not had any schooling and now works as a gardener to keep himself alive.

Children express pain through drawings...

Mdu was one of 50 child victims attending a recent special truth and reconciliation commission hearing for Kwazulu-Natal children who were traumatized by political violence during the apartheid era. the youngest was six years.

The hearing, the first of its kind, was intended to allow children to tell their stories to Archbishop Desmond Tutu's commission, which was set up to probe 30 years of human rights abuses by all sides under apartheid.

The children are also being prompted to express their trauma by drawing pictures, since many of them, especially the younger ones, do not possess the linguistic skills to talk about their experiences.

Kwazulu-Natal has experienced a low-key civil war for over a decade, involving security forces fighting black liberation movements and an intense turf war between President Nelson Mandela's anc and Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha.

Violence in Kwazulu-Natal, home to nine million Zulus, was marked by massacres of entire families and the torching of homesteads.

More than 14,000 people have been killed in the province.

If children themselves did not fall victim to the violence, they were affected when their parents were targetted by either the state's security forces or by rival political organizations. A former Inkatha member and self-confessed killer Patrick

Hlongwane told Reuters it had been a policy of the warlords to kill everybody, including children, during an attack on political rivals.

"We were told when you kill a snake you must destroy all its eggs also," Hlongwane said.

Children 12 years and older were usually identified as political activists by police and assaulted to give information on the then-banned liberation movements, said an observer.

"Other children became directly involved in political violence because they were frustrated by apartheid and had seen what it had done to their parents' lives. It gave them something active to do," said Anne McKay, coordinator of a program for survivors of violence.

She said between 1984 and 1986 the security forces killed 300 children, wounded 1,000 and detained 173,000 more.

Only 25 percent of those children held in jail were ever tried in court, McKay said. Under state of emergency regulations people could be detained for up to 90 days without trial.

"The state of emergency regulations allowed security forces to disregard all legislation that protected children...and allowed them to forcibly remove children from their homes and communities, and detain them in prison," McKay said.

State pays for schooling of child victims...

The government recently allocated 100 million rand ($22.5 million) towards the orphans of the conflict and the refugees it created in Kwazulu-Natal, where monitors estimate more than 500,000 people have been displaced.

Truth commission spokesman Phinda Khuzwayo said Mdu would be put in a special schooling program for the rest of this year before being sent back to school next year with fees to be paid by the commission's reparations committee.

"One of the worst things about this violence was that so many children have lost their education...but we are trying to link a number of government departments to help us put this right," Khuzwayo said.

(Reuter)

UN Chief Calls for Protecting Families

TEHRAN — Describing the family as "our fundamental unit of social cohesion and coexistence", UN secretary-general Kofi Annan today called for aiding the families on the edge of extinction, in war zones and post-conflict areas."

"It is only by protecting families, from famine as well as from fragmentation, that they can prosper and contribute to the family of nations." Annan said in a message on International Day of Families on May 15.

The Secretary-General said:

"The traditional observance of 15 May as the International Day of Families brings us back, once again, to our fundamental unit of social cohesion and co-existence — the family. The theme for 1997 — "Building families based on partnership" — highlights the contributions that families can make to the ideals of participation, equality and the sharing of duties and responsibilities in pursuit of more humane societies.

"These values have, over the years, acquired increasing importance in the work of the United Nations. They underline many of the recommendations and platforms conferences of this decade — from Rio to Beijing to Istanbul. The "Beijing Platform for Action," for example, is anchored in the principle of equality between men and women.

"The global work of the UN is not without reason compared to that of a family — striving for a common goal in concert with all members for a better future. The 1997 theme of partnership underlines the importance of re-examining traditional gender roles and recognizing equal status and opportunities. New forms of partnership are needed among generations as longer life expectancy has produced more four generation families.

"All members of the family, those in their earliest years and those in their twilight, have a contribution to make to the family partnership. The family faces challenges of different kinds in different regions of the world. In the industrialized world, urbanization and economic pressures have fragmented families. In other parts of the world, particularly in countries in or just out of conflict, the threat is against the very survival of the family.

"From Bosnia to Zaire, we have seen how conflicts assault the very foundation of society — families. Whether it is fathers sent off to war never perhaps to return, or mothers left defenseless before advancing armies, or children made orphans by massive dislocations and refugee movements — the ruins of war are the ruins of families.

"The family is the first victim of a war, and the most lasting. On this International Day of Families let us redouble our efforts to aid not only those families in need, but also those on the edge of extinction, in war zones and in post-conflict areas. We restore the sacredness of the family as a bedrock of humane values everywhere, in peace as well as in war.

"The future of peace and prosperity that we seek for all the world's peoples needs a foundation of tolerance, security, equality and justice. That foundation is the family. It is only by protecting families, from famines as well as from fragmentation, that they can prosper and contribute to the family of nations that is the United Nations."

FAO Warns of Food Crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa

NAIROBI — The UN food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) warned on Monday that many people were dying of starvation and disease in Sub-Saharan Africa and urged the international community to continue providing aid.

In a quarterly report entitled "food supply situation and crop prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa," released here on Monday, the FAO said that large numbers of people were dying particularly in Rwanda and Zaire, while tens of thousands were severely malnourished and in very poor health.

"With a large-scale repatriation of refugees underway in Rwanda and Zaire, continued donor support was needed to alleviate further human suffering and loss of life," said the report, published by the FAO's global information and early warning system.

It said 17 Sub-Saharan African countries were experiencing food shortages and emergencies, despite good 1996 harvests in several parts of the continent, and cited continuing civil strife, droughts, floods, plant pests and diseases as the main causes for the continuing difficulties.



In Burundi, despite the recent relaxation of the economic embargo, the food supply situation was reported to be tight following a poor 1997 first season harvest and continuing civil strife, the report said.

But in Rwanda, the report said, the huge number of returning refugees and the marked deterioration of the security situation in areas bordering Zaire have aggravated already precarious food supplies in the country.



The report cited severe drought and floods in recent months in eastern Africa as the leading causes of the supply problems affecting more than three million people in large parts of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

In Kenya, the FAO report said the food situation was especially critical in the pastoral northeastern province and the eastern province as a result of the recent drought.

Large parts of northern Tanzania, eastern and southeastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia and eastern Uganda were also seriously affected by the drought, while insecurity and civil strife continued to disrupt food production in northern Uganda and southern Sudan, the report said.

It stated further that food supply situation also remained precarious in Liberia and sierra leone, despite some recovery in production, and that the two countries needed continued food assistance.

Other countries facing food supply difficulties of varying intensity included Angola, Chad, Mauritania, Mozambique and Niger, it said, adding that even though the aggregate food aid needs in Sub-Saharan Africa in 1997 were expected to be about 20 percent lower than in 1996, they remained high at an estimate of about 1.9 million tons.

(AFP)

Fractured English, a Colonial Legacy in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — One of the notable legacies of British rule of Hong Kong, now in its twilight days, is a version of the English language that sometimes diverges markedly from that of the home country.

English will remain an official language alongside Chinese even after the handover to China on July 1 but is not widely spoken by Hong Kong Chinese despite its importance in commerce.

This is a sharp contrast with Singapore, where English is the lingua franca for people of several different ethnic backgrounds.

In Hong Kong, the language has drifted for a variety of cultural and linguistic reasons and the result elicits reactions ranging from amusement to incomprehension.

Humorist Nury Vittachi has reported on the phenomenon for a decade or more in newspaper and magazine columns. "There is a constant stream of hilarious misprints," he told Reuters.

In what may count as a sign of the times, the Hong Kong treasury is using envelopes bearing the legend "on her majest's service".

Signs and advertisements can also leave people scratching their heads: a railway station where construction work was underway recently warned users to "beware of the floor".

Europeans Also Learn Little Cantonese

Europeans, too, have a reputation for learning little or no Cantonese, the local dialect of Chinese, even after years here.

Many foreign business people have their names rendered in Chinese on their visiting cards by using characters that most closely approximate in sound but without checking on the meaning, sometimes with unfortunate consequences.

Hong Koing's large ethnic Indian minority, however, mostly speak good English and Cantonese, Vittachi says. "It is a mystery why Europeans speak such poor Cantonese and vice versa," he says.

Hong Kong people frequently adopt Western forenames but their choice often causes some amusement. Vittachi's column has recorded the existence of a nausea yip, Picas So (Picasso) and Arsenic Lo.

Goggles Pang is a local businessman; a local bank teller is called Unique Leung and a concert program featured a chorister called Sinfonia Ho.

Passion for Wealth Reflected in Names

A passion among the Chinese for wealth and prosperity reflects itself in the English names they give to buildings and companies: words like prosperous, richwin and double lucky are common.

The Hong Kong phone directory lists 237 firms with names beginning with "rich" including Rich Beauty Investments, Rich Champion Industries and Rich Huge International.

A modest property in Wan Chai district calls itself opulent building and an upscale residential block in mid-levels area is named wealthy court.

The Chinese do not do much better when they opt to transliterate names into English. Vittachi's column has recently provoked mirth with pictures of signs of the hop on bicycle shop and the Fat Kau (pronounced "cow") Fast Food.

Cantonese is difficult for Westerners because its pronunciation requires many tones to carry a meaning correctly.

Vittachi says *"gweilos"* (foreign devils), as the local Chinese call the whites, frequently cause offense when asking for *"choi sum"*, a green vegetable.

"Get the tone wrong and it means "take off your clothes'," he said.

To say *"da fo gei"* is also a pitfall. It means cigarette lighter, but mispronounce it in a restaurant and you could be in trouble — it can mean "hit the waiter".

Shroffs, Chops and Godowns

Hong Kong English also has borrowings from elsewhere: Cashiers' desks in car parks and government offices are called *"shroff"*, a word of Arabic origin that has come here via India.

A warehouse is a *"godown"*, also a word of Indian origin.

In Hong Kong the word *"chop"* is not just a cut of meat — it is a personal seal or stamp but also means to slash with a knife, a punishment meted out in gangland feuds.

A Hong Kong university study lists dozens of borrowings from Chinese to English that can be traced to Hong Kong including *"gung ho"* (literally work together), ketchup (a sauce including tomatoes), tycoon and typhoon.

Others are rather obscure or unique to Hong Kong, like *"mafoo"*, for a Chinese stable groom. *"Cumshaw"*, meaning a tip, has fallen into disuse.

The problem of mangled English shows no sign of waning as Hong Kong prepares for Chinese rule and it may get worse.

Teachers report a big increase in people from all backgrounds seeking to learn not English, but Mandarin, the version of Chinese spoken in Beijing.

(Reuter)

"Gone With the Wind" Author's Home Open to Tourists

ATLANTA, Georgia — The house that gave birth to the famous novel, *"Gone With the Wind,"* opened its doors to the public Saturday, a year after it was devastated by arson.

The Tudor-style house where Margaret Mitchell penned the Pulitzer prize-winning book about a tumultuous love affair during the U.S. civil war was officially opened Friday with a ceremony that drew author Tom Wolfe and Georgia governor Zell Miller, a Margaret Mitchell house foundation spokeswoman said.

Visitors can view exclusive photographs that tell Mitchell's life story as well as the author's apartment, fully restored to look like it did when she wrote the epic work.

The three-story home — which took 10 years to restore — was struck by criminally set fires in 1994 and 1996.

A movie adaptation of the novel, starring Vivian Leigh as the fiery Scarlet o'Hara and Clark Gable as her dashing lover Rhett Butler, has been a popular favorite since it first hit movie screens in 1939.

(AFP)

List of Winners at 50th Cannes Film Festival

Award winners at the 50th Cannes Film Festival, announced at the closing ceremony Sunday night:

- Golden Palm: *"The Taste of Cherry,"* by Abbas Kiarostami, Iran, and *"Unagi"*(The Eel) by Shohei Imamura, Japan.
- 50th Anniversary Prize: Youssef Chahine, Egypt, director of *"Al Massir"* (The Destiny)
- Grand Prize: *"The Sweet Hereafter,"* Atom Egoyan, Canada
- Best Actress: Cathy Burke in *"Nil by Mouth,"* Britain
- Best Actor: Sean Penn in *"She's So Lovely,"* U.S.A.
- Best Director: Wong Kar-Wai, *"Happy Together,"* Hong Kong
- Best Screenplay: James Schamus, *"The Ice Storm"*
- Jury Prize: *"Western,"* Manuel Poirier, France
- Best Short Film: *"Is It the Design or the Wrapper?"*, Tessa Sheridan, Britain
- Jury Prize for Short Film: *"Leonie"* De Lieven Debrauwer, Belgium, and *"Les Vacances"* by Emmanuelle Bercot, France.

Separate Competitions:

- Golden Camera (for first-time director): *"Moe No Suzaku,"* Naomi Kawase, Japan
- Golden Camera Special Mention: *"La Vie de Jesus,"* Bruno Dumont, France.
- Technical Grand Prize: Thierry Arbogast, *"She's So Lovely,"* *"The Fifth Element"*

(AP)

Sleepy Seaside Village Awaits Return of Tourists to Croatia

SUKOSAN, Croatia — In this sleepy seaside village on Croatia's Adriatic coast, like many which made their living from tourism before the war, local people are hoping 1997 will see the return of big-spending foreigners.

The country's tourist industry, which accounted for seven percent of gross national product in 1990, bringing in 1.7 billion dollars in foreign exchange, was hard hit by the outbreak of conflict the following year.

As rebel Serbs, backed by the former Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), bombarded the coast and captured more than one quarter of the country, the visitors dried up.

The war ended in 1995 after the Croatian Army recaptured most of the Serb-held areas, and the industry is now hoping to recoup its losses.

Officials in Zagreb say that Croatia is expecting some 4.4 million tourist arrivals this year, up from 3.9 million in 1996, the vast majority of whom were from abroad.

"We are aiming to have up to 60 percent this year of what we had in 1990," Miljenko Babic, the head of the board's Information Department, told AFP.

In 1995, the last year for which official figures were available, tourism made up 3.2 percent of GNP, bringing in 1.6 billion dollars in foreign exchange.

The authorities are trying to encourage the foreign tourists, typically from Germany, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Italy and Austria, to venture further down the coast.

Southern areas such as the UNESCO-protected mediaeval walled city of Dubrovnik or split, with Roman emperor Diocletian's Palace, were largely shunned in the war in favor of northern resorts which were regarded as safer.

In Sukosan, near Zadar, where locals used to run camping sites in their back yards, the scars of war can be seen on either side of the main coastal road which runs through the village.

"See that house over there, that's where the Chetniks (Serb fighters) were," a local taxi driver said, pointing to a building up the hill.

The village was unlucky in that it was on the thin sliver of the coast where the former frontline ran close to the Adriatic. In the lottery of war, some houses were burnt to the ground while neighboring buildings were left unscathed.

Just 12 kilometers (seven miles) inland, a mass grave was dug up last year by the local authorities in the former Serb-held village of Skabrnje, and a Croat cafe owner tells how he lost his leg to an abandoned shell.

But with the war over and traffic passing down along the coast to the south, the locals are preparing for the summer season.

Last year, the French company club Mediterranee reopened its straw hut village in nearby Pakostane.

This year, the new manager of the Zlatna Luka (golden harbor) Marina in Sukosan is cautiously resuming work halted by the war.

He has opened up a cafe for the Austrian and German yachts which have begun taking up berths, although grandiose pre-war plans for a 400-bed hotel, casino and two Olympic size swimming pools have been shelved for now.

(AFP)

What Is Prayer?

By Martyr Ayatollah S.M. Hosseini Beheshti

Part 4

Iqamah (Performing the Prayer):

When a Muslim hears the sound of Azan, he gets prepar for the prayer. Those who want to take part in t congregational prayer go to the mosques or other places prayer. When the prayer is about to be performed, the followi phrases are uttered aloud to signal the Iqamah.

Allaho Akbar (2) [God is the greatest]

Ashhado An-la Elaha Ellallah (2) [I testify that there is God but Allah]

Ashhado An-na Mohammadan Rasoolollah (2) [I testify t Prophet Mohammad (S) is the Messenger of Allah]

Ashhado An-na Ali-yan Vali-yollah (2) [I testify that Im Ali (AS) is the Friend of Allah]

Hayya Alas-salah (2) [hasten to prayer]

Hayya Alal-falah (2) [hasten to salvation]

Hayya Ala Khairel Amal (2) [hasten to the best of deeds

Qad Qama tes-salah (2) [prayer is about to be performe

Allaho Akbar (2) [God is the greatest]

La Elaha Ellallah (1) [there is no God but Allah]



How to Get Prepared for Prayer

Make yourself clean and then praise your Lord!

Vozu (Minor Ablution):

First, we should wash the face, hands and the for then, we should pass the hand on the head from the c the front and the feet from the toes to the ankle.

"O you who believe! when you rise up to prayer, wa faces and your hands and forearms and pass your h your heads and your feet up to the ankles;..."(5:6)

This washing should be done purely out of obedien Almighty God and as a religious duty. If some other pa body is not clean, it should be washed and clean clothe be worn.

Qibla (Direction faced in prayer):

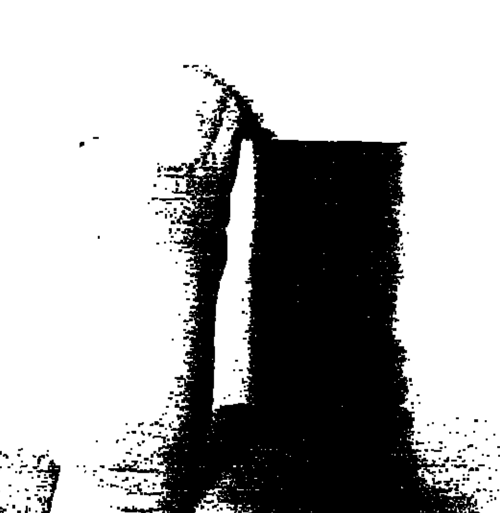
A Muslim should turn towards the Kaaba in pray building which is reminiscent of Prophet Abraham (champion of monotheism, and his son Isaac (AS). Tl father and son built the Kaaba in Mecca for the worsh Almighty God.

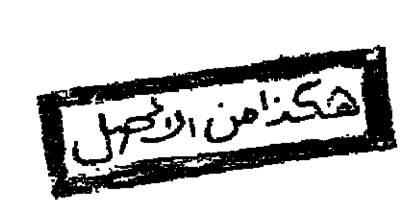
Islam introduced Kaaba as the center of unitarian ordered the Muslims across the globe to turn towa praying:

"And from whatsoever place you come forth, turn y towards the Sacred Mosque; and wherever you are t faces towards it. ..." (2:150)

A Muslim should not be legally or religiously bar using the place of the prayer or the clothing which while saying the prayer.

(To b





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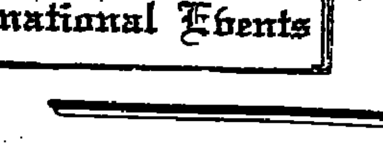
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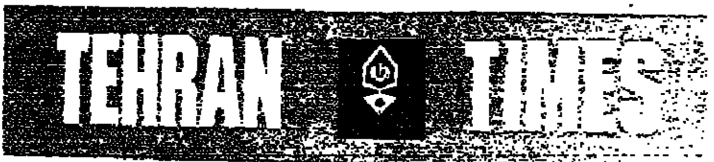
Prayer?

S. M. Hosseini Beheshti

International Spectrum

A Glance at International Events





Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU. MAY 22, 1997; KHORDAD 1, 1376; MOHARRAM 15, 1418

Iran Spectrum



A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, May 13

ECO Summit Opens in Turkmenistan

A two-day summit of the Organization for Economic Cooperation opened in Ashkhabad under the shadow of conflict on one member nation, Afghanistan.

Anti-Taliban Forces Form New Government

Opponents of Afghanistan's Taliban militia have formed a new government under President Burhanuddin Rabbani, opposition sources in Islamabad said.

Russia Talks Tough ahead of NATO Leader's Visit

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has told his top negotiator to take a tough line in talks with NATO despite signs Moscow may be ready to sign a security agreement with the Western defense alliance on May 27.

Wednesday, May 14

Okinawa Still Apart From Rest of Japan, Governor Says



Okinawan Governor Masahide Ota said that 25 years since the return of the country's southern islands Japan had not narrowed the "psychological distance" between them and the rest of the country.

Turkish Troops Launch Incursion into Northern Iraq

Turkish troops, backed by tanks, entered north Iraq at dawn on Kurds, local correspondents reported.

Russia, NATO Finalize Key Accord

Russia and NATO agreed on the text of a document defining their future relations after the planned enlargement of the Western alliance, and lifting the threat of a new Cold War in Europe.

Thursday, May 15

Atlantis All Set For Predawn Launch



The U.S. space shuttle Atlantis was all set for its predawn launch on a nine-day mission to rendezvous with the Russian Mir space station.

Friday, May 16

Ross Mission Fails

The latest Mideast peace shuttle by President Clinton's envoy ended in failure and the Palestinians accused the United States of doing nothing to stop Jewish settlement expansion on disputed land.

Saturday, May 17

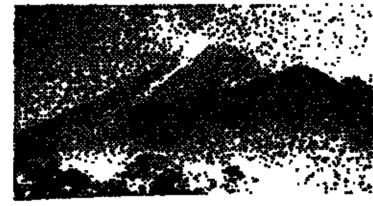
Kabila Assumes Power in Zaire

Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila assumed power as head of state and ordered troops loyal to the ousted president Mobutu Sese Seko to surrender to his troops as they entered the capital Kinshasa.

S. Korean President Regrets as Son Heads for Jail

President Kim Young-Sam expressed regret to the South Korean people over the arrest of his own son for corruption, but said it proved he had kept his vow to exempt no one from punishment.

Indonesian Villagers Flee Volcanic Eruption on Remote Island



About 300 villagers on a remote island fled their homes after a volcano erupted sending rocks, ash and hot mud high into the air, the newspaper *Kompas* reported.

Sunday, May 18

Tajik President, Opposition Leader Sign Accord

Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmonov and Islamic opposition leader Said Abdullah Nuri signed a draft political agreement, the first step in a peace process intended to lead to national reconciliation, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Pope Celebrates 77th Birthday



A healthy-looking Pope John Paul marked his 77th birthday joking that although he was approaching his "sunset" he hoped to live to be 100.

Sri Lanka Troops Capture Key Tiger Town, Toll Hits 300



Security forces captured a key Tamil rebel town in northern Sri Lanka as the military's biggest ground offensive entered its sixth day with the death toll on both sides exceeding 300, officials said.

Monday, May 19

South Africa Recognizes Kabila as President

Zairian rebel leader Laurent Kabila claims he was forced to speed up plans to take the capital and declare himself president by dictator Mobutu Sese Seko's sudden departure, a top South African official said.

Mongolia Elects Ex-Communist as New President

Mongolia's former communist rulers dealt a crushing defeat to the ruling democrats in presidential polls when their Soviet-educated candidate trounced the incumbent, officials said.

Cyclone Batters Bangladesh Coast



One man was killed and at least 50 were seriously injured as a severe cyclone battered the Bangladesh port city of Chittagong.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, May 13

People's Massive Turn Out in Election to Guarantee Security of System



Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said that massive turn out of the nation in the upcoming election will guarantee the security of the Islamic system.

Wednesday, May 14

Nazarbayev, Rabbani Confer With President Rafsanjani



Presidents of Kazakhstan and Afghanistan in separate meetings discussed the latest regional developments with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani,



on the sidelines of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit in Ashkhabad.

President Winds Up Central Asian Tour

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani wound up his two-Central Asian nation tour, to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan where he attended the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit.

International Aid Poured in for Quake Victims



Different countries contributed in aid for the survivors of the devastating tremor which hit Khorasan Province last Saturday.

Thursday, May 15

President Elaborates on the Outcome of His Tour to C. Asia

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaking at a press conference on his six-day visit to the republics of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, said that he had been accorded unprecedented welcome during his stay, terming it as the token of the Islamic dignity.

Iranian Consul General Meets Afghan Intelligence Official

The Iranian Consul General Abolfazl Zohervand, in Mazari Sharif held talks with Afghan intelligence and cultural official of the region, Touri Ali Razaqyar.

Friday, May 16

Leader Attend Mourning Ceremonies in Memory of Imam Hussein



The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei attended ceremonies marking the ninth day of the lunar Hijra month of Muharram, *(Tasoua)*.

Saturday, May 17

Iran to Invite Foreign Experts to Inspect Quake-Hit Areas

An official of the Interior Ministry said that Iran is ready to invite foreign expert delegations to inspect Khorasan's quake-hit areas and study different aspects of the recent tremor in the region.

Sunday, May 18

Iran, Japan Joint Winners of Cannes's Golden Palm

The Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan jointly won the Cannes Festival's top Golden Palm Prize.

$14m Worth of Non-Metallic Minerals Exported



Some $14 million worth of non-metallic minerals were exported abroad from Iran last year, up 38 percent compared to the previous year.

No New Post-Election Foreign Policy

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said there would be no change in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy principles after next Friday's presidential election.

Monday, May 19

Multilateral Cooperation Key to Regional Stability

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, receiving secretary general of ECO and the participants in the 3rd Consultative Meeting of ESCAP, emphasized the necessity for strengthening regional organizations and called for more support for the organizations newly founded in the region.



If Not, You Can Be

Positive thinking is a lot more than blind faith — and its power over people's lives is awesome. Optimists fare better than pessimists in almost every aspect of life, often achieving more and enjoying greater social success. Optimistic people are also less susceptible to depression and physical ills. Says psychology professor Martin E. P. Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania, "There's evidence that optimism bolsters the immune system."

Psychologists believe optimism and pessimism are habits we learn as children, and our parents are our role models. When a water pipe broke and flooded your new home, did your father lament, "Why did I pick such a lousy house"? Or did he declare, "Our contract guaranteed everything would be in perfect condition, so I'll have the builder fix the plumbing and replace the damage"?

"Optimism is a habitual way of explaining setbacks to yourself," says Seligman. Here's how it works:

* The pessimist believes bad events stem from permanent conditions ("I failed the math quiz because I don't have a head for numbers") and good events from temporary ones ("My husband brought me flowers because he had a good day at work".)

The optimist, however, attributes failure to temporary causes ("I failed the test because I didn't pay attention") and favorable situations to enduring causes ("He brought me flowers because he loves me").

* The pessimist allows a disappointment in one area of his life to pervade the rest. Say he's laid off from work. The pessimist not only feels bad about losing his job, but he also starts to worry that his marriage is in trouble and his kids are out of control. The optimist doesn't let one setback contaminate his whole life. *So at the moment I don't have a job*, he thinks. *My wife and I are still close, and my kids made the honor roll.*

* When things go wrong, pessimists blame themselves. If another driver dents your parked car, you chide yourself for parking in a "stupid" spot. The optimist ascribes such trouble to a fluke or looks for a new approach — "Next time I'll park where there are fewer cars."

"The thought *Nothing I do matters* prevents pessimists from trying to improve the situation," Seligman notes. "So, confronted by a setback, they just give up."

Want to become more of an optimist? Luckily, learned habits can be unlearned. The latest research shows that optimism is a skill anyone can master. Here's a four-step program to help you to think positively.

Challenge Negative Thoughts

Suppose you're late getting to work. Rather than berating yourself — "I'm always late" — keep yourself-appraisal accurate. Try to remember when you were last late. Yesterday? No, eight week ago. Are you late because you lazed in bed? No, your teenager emptied the car's tank last night, so you had to stop for gas.

Imagine the worst-case scenario, but then picture the best. "I'm going to get fired," you moan. Not likely. Maybe the boss gets caught in traffic and arrives even later than you. Next, envision the most likely scenario: the boss scowls as you scurry to your desk — embarrassing, but far from fatal.

Finally, look for a solution. Work through lunch, or leave the house ten minutes earlier to allow for unforeseen delays.

"Think of failure as the result of a faulty strategy, not some character flaw," says Seligman. "Then, instead of feeling helpless, you can take action."

Rehearse Being a Winner

"In experiments, people who imagine themselves succeeding outperform those who expect to fail," explains David Myers, professor of psychology at Hope College in Holland, Mich. Afraid you'll blow your diet at your niece's wedding? Before the big day, visualize yourself passing up crab puffs in favor of crudites. By the time you face the real challenge, your mental rehearsals will have given you confidence and willpower.

Suppose you were recently divorced. A friend arranges a dinner party to which she's also invited an eligible man. The pessimist in you moans, "He won't be interested in me." Now ask yourself what the optimist would do. Put on that black dress friends say is so flattering? Do it!

Give Yourself Credit

Acknowledge past successes. Analyze the good things that happen to you as a result of your own efforts. Your vacation photographs were superb not because the camera was designed for dummies, but because you're skilled at lighting and composition. Your barbecue was a success not because the weather was nice, but because of your preparation and social skills.

Celebrated achievement. "I fixed that hole in the wall without having to call the carpenter. Now I'll treat myself to a new power tool." Taking pride in your accomplishments builds a sense of self-worth.

Set Goals

Hopefulness, says psychologist C. R. Snyder of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, "requires both willpower and *way* power — the means to achieve you goals." Choose those goals wisely and make sure they are your own. If your father dreamed you'd take over the family hardware store but you love books more, you'll be happier as a librarian.

Be specific. Vague plans "to do more for the community" have less chance of succeeding than do vows to volunteer once a week at a soup kitchen. Break down large goals into smaller ones to keep from being paralyzed by the enormousness of your task.

"With each interim goal you reach," says Snyder, "you'll see progress. You'll feel energized and excited about what's to come." And that's the mark — and the power — of an optimist.

(Courtesy the GOOD HOUSEKEEPING)

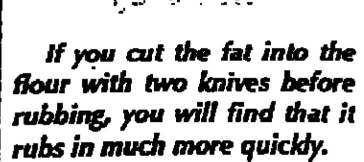
Entertaining in Style

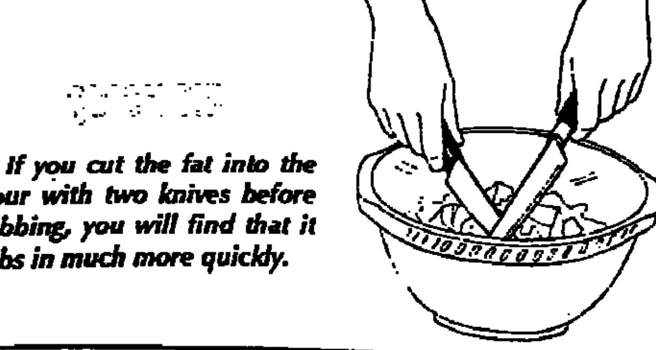
You will need ...	***For the pastry:***
	6 oz. plain flour
	pinch salt
	1 1/2 oz. butter, cut into small pieces
	1 1/2 oz. lard, cut into small pieces
Preparation time	***For the filling:***
25 minutes	2 hard-boiled eggs
	2 teaspoons lemon juice
Cooking time	3 oz. packet cream cheese
20 minutes	4 oz. mushrooms
	1 tablespoon milk
Oven setting	1/2 oz. butter
400°F; gas mark 6	1 green pepper
	1 tablespoon oil

Sift flour and salt into a bowl, add both fats and rub in until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add enough water to make a stiff paste. Roll out to fit an 8-inch flan ring or baking tin. Line ring, trim edges and bake blind for 20 minutes. Allow to cool.

Chop eggs and mix with lemon juice and cheese. Wash and slice mushrooms, cook in milk and butter until soft. Wash and core pepper, cut into strips and fry in oil until soft. Drain mushrooms and pepper on kitchen paper.

Spread cheese mixture into flan case and arrange mushrooms and pepper over the top. *Serves 4.*





If you cut the fat into the flour with two knives before rubbing, you will find that it rubs in much more quickly.

Because pigs mean wealth. Before the industrial Revolution, which made close-knit urban dwelling the norm, it was common for even the poorest of families to keep a pig as a rainy-day reserve to be sold when times were hard. And underlining their association with a store of wealth, money boxes have been made in the shape of a pig ever since Tudor times.



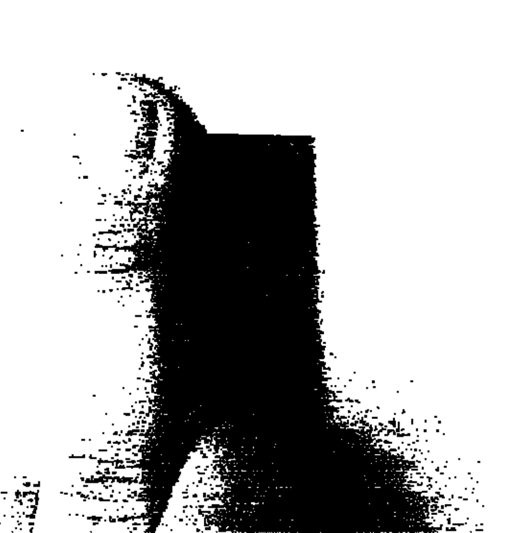
DON'T FENCE ME IN

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C	W	K	U	L	U	A	W	T	T	I	V	I	I	T
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D	L	R	K	J	D	C	H	A	I	N	U	I	E	T
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N	H	I	C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	S	N	A	L	P

BOARDS
BRICK
CEDAR
CHAIN
CLIPS
COSTS
CYCLONE
ELECTRIFIED
EVEN
FENCE
FLAGSTONE
FORMS
GATES
HOLES
IRON
LEVEL
PAINT
PITCH
PLANS
POSTS
PUT UP
REDWOOD
REINFORCE
SAFE
SECTIONS
STOCKADE
STONE
STURDY
SURVEY
TIGHT
TYPES
WIRE

Answer to Last Week's PUZZLE

COMPUTER CLASS





Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: *Ireland*

Ireland in Transition

The light in Ireland is such a fickle blessing: The way, out of a bruised and sodden sky, a single beam bright as platinum feels its way across a green hillside; or, in early evening, the smudged sky breaks and the sun is suddenly incandescent on every white farmhouse and every blade of wet grass. The light finds its way mysteriously around the clouds. It comes in from the sides. It lifts up off a white horse or a beach and scatters through the moist air with a numinous glow. It rises from earth toward the heavens. Then it's gone.



Endowed with emeral pastures rich in bone-building calcium, Ireland remains the "European nursery" for horses.

The words "real Ireland" come to mind. It's a phrase the Irish use to describe any place other than where they are right now. By "real Ireland" the Irish usually mean postcard Ireland, even mythic Ireland, a not-too-distant past for which they suffer pangs of longing—and also embarrassment: A smart city type in a recent play by Brian Friel peers around a rural landscape and with a shudder declares, "Bloody Indian territory!"

Real Ireland is an urban nation now. A quarter of the population lives in metropolitan Dublin alone, and manufacturing, not farming, is the engine of the Irish economoy, mostly under the control of multinational companies. It is the youngest country in Europe, with almost half the population under 25. It has also lately realized that half its population is female: The Irish Constitution still says a woman's place is in the home, but women now constitute a third of the workforce, and they've become a dynamic element in public life, most visibly with the election of Mary Robinson as Ireland's first female president.



Irish polkas and Kerry slides spring from an Irish fiddle, still popular in Irish pubs.

The light in Ireland now is often neon. Ireland has become prosperous, partly because the spirit of enterprise has revived after long stagnation—and also because the European Union has handed over almost $30 billion for modernization and farm subsidies since Ireland became a member in 1973.

The old vision of Ireland, of Roman Catholic families living in "frugal comfort" on small farms and of "comely maidens" dancing at the crossroads—the dreamy rural myth, celebrated by Eamon de Valera, independent Ireland's most towering political figure—had already faded by the 1970s.

But it has been smashed to bits in recent years by a series of painfully public events—notably the "X" case, in which a 14-year-old girl was raped by a friend's father and the government tried to stop her from traveling abroad for an abortion.

The old vision of Ireland has also suffered because of the squalid conflict between Catholic and Protestant over Northern Ireland, the six Ulster counties that remain part of the United Kingdom. Before the Irish Republic won its independence in 1922, the English dominated Ireland for more than 700 years, and a lingering colonial mind-set still colors Irish thinking.

Any conversation can turn, with a fresh sense of injury, to those times when Catholics were forbidden to buy land, speak Irish, or freely practice their religion. The 900,000 Protestants of Northern Ireland recite with equal passion a fear of yielding power to Catholics. In the republic the constitution and the leading political parties have long stood for a united Ireland governed from Dublin. But over 25 years of sectarian murders have made the old rhetoric unpalatable.

FOR BETTER AND FOR WORSE, the Catholic religion has long been the backbone of Irish Celtic identity. Under the British the parish priest was often the only figure of authority to fight for ordinary people. Sunday Mass, the one event attended by almost everyone, helped keep alive the Celtic sense of community. Through pulpit and confessional, the priest presided over local life well into this century.

What has disappeared, for the most part, is the use of religion as an instrument for counting the hairs on other people's heads. In the old Ireland, people were quick to note even the smallest deviation from approved form. "It was the valley of the squinting windows," a Dublin man tells you, using a figure of speech that lingers vividly in people's memories.

The obsession with sex often translated into an obsession with the purity—or impurity—of women. A tough, cigarette-smoking Dublin woman recalls a religious custom surrounding her mother's 13 childbirths: "When you gave birth to a child, you'd committed the sin of Adam, so you weren't allowed to carry the child to the church. The godparents carried the child, and you'd go in a little side door, and on the side alter you were blessed by the priest with oil and holy water. I suppose it was like a form of exorcism."

She herself went on to marry in complete ignorance of human reproduction. The year was in 1971. She was a child of the postwar baby boom and her husband abandoned her when she was pregnant with their sixth child.

Much has changed since then. The family is prominent on the list of institutions that have fallen out of fashion in modern Ireland, Last year Ireland passed a law legalizing divorce. "Marriage has been a disaster for Ireland," says a nun, and she could cite innumerable cases of abuse, alcoholism, sexual misunderstanding, and emotional deprivation, the bumper harvest of Ireland's peculiar history.

A feminist argues that for some women, community groups are replacing the family as the basic social unit. Young people find that current laws on social welfare benefits make it smarter for them to stay single: "You lose everything when you marry." Thus one in every five births now is to an unwed mother, often a teenager, and hardly anyone feels comfortable saying this is wrong.

No single life reflects how Irish attitudes have changed more visibly than that of Mary Robinson. As a young senator in the 1970s, Robinson introduced the first bill to legalize the sale of birth control devices, and she was widely vilifed as "Contraceptive Mary." Today, at 52, President Robinson is due to end her term as president and is often revered to as "Our Mary."

Her election was, on one level, a fluke. A constitutional lawyer and a feminist who fought for free access to abortion information, among other issues, Robinson was nominated in 1990 by the also-ran Labour Party. In one unguarded campaign interview, she denounced "the whole patriarchal male-dominated presence of the Catholic Church" for oppressing Irish women. Robinson's image-makers rushed to emphasize her conventional private life as wife and mother of three. But she won election primarily because Ireland's dominant political party collapsed in a wave of GUBU, the gleeful acronym for "grotesque, unbelievable, bizarre, and unprecedented" scandals. Robinson alone seemed to stand for independence and integrity. Having astonished themselves by electing her, the Irish went on to embrace her as a symbol of their own new-found tolerance.

Historic mistrust of British authority still governs the national mind-set, translated too easily into a cynicism about their own democracy. "Everyone's entitled now to be on the fiddle," Tommy Phelan complained. "Stealing is acceptable, at least off the government," a neighbor agreed. Cheating on welfare, living off the black market, and the giving or getting of 'backhanders,' or illegal payments, are so commonplace that they seem at times like the new national pastimes. Laws, a priest says, "are for the guidance of the wise and the observance of the fools." There doesn't seem to be many fools in Ireland.

Having shattered their old mythology, maybe the Irish would yet pick up the best pieces and reshape them into something strong and new, an identity with which they could live. *(Nat Geog. Sept.1994.)*

Travelogue

Part 2

Jam Mosque

The original architecture of the mosque dates back to the Seljuk era. What remains of the old structure is a small minaret with artistic brick works and an inscription in kufic script. The mosque has a big courtyard with a tall balcony. There are many firmans from the Safavid and Qajar eras engraved on stones. Inside the mosque there is a wooden pulpit dated 859 A.H.

Radkan Tower

The famous and historical 1,000-year-old tower is located near the village of Radkan, 24 kms from Kord Kouy and 54 kms south of Gorgan. Built on top of a beautiful and scenic hill, it is the burial place of one of the commanders of Al-e Bavand family of Tabarestan, Abu Jaafar Mohammad Ibn Vadrin Bavandi. According to an inscription underneath the dome, the work on the tower started in 406 A.H. and was completed by Ahmad Ibn Osman in 411 A.H. The 35-meter cylindrical tower has a big pyramidal dome on top.

Nour Shrine Ishaq Shrine

Also known as Nour Shrine, is located in the Sarcheshmeh quarter of Gorgan. The brick works and decorations have traces of the architecture of the Seljuk era. Unlike its magnificent exterior, the interior of the shrine is plain and rectangular, the corners are decorated with round pillars with brick exterior. The beautiful pulpit of the shrine is covered with inscription in kufic script and engravings of flowers. The door and a precious wooden box placed on top of the tomb are the works of the 9th century hegira.

Roshanabad Shrine

The shrine is 18 kms west of Gorgan and half a kilometer from the Gorgan-Kord Kouy road. Built in the middle of a large orchard, it has a long polygonal tower, a portico and a sanctuary. The inscription on the wooden box on top of the tomb shows it was made in 879 A.H. by Hajji Abdullah. The precious door of the shrine was made in 865 A.H

Sardar Mosque

The mosque is the work of one of the elites of Gorgan in the Qajar era, Hajj Mullah Reze Estrabadi. However, it is located in the Naalbandan quarter of Gorgan. The Organization for Protection of Historical Monuments restored the mosque in 1969.

Aq Qaleh Bridge

Built over the famous Gorgan River, the bridge is 18 kms from north Gorgan in Aq Qaleh District. The bridge is 74 mts long and has four spandrels. Waterbreakers in the eastern side of the bridge are semi-circular with brick exterior, unique in their kind. The bridge is a leftover of the Safavid era and is presently a gateway to the Republic of Turkmenistan.



Aqa Mohammad Khan Palace

The original structure dates back to the Safavid period. However, Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar renovated and repaired the palace. It has a pavilion and a courtyard with beautiful tall trees.

Gorgan Museum

The city's museum was inaugurated on February 3, 1988. It is a two-storey building with a basement where the anthropology section is situated. The ground floor houses the administrative offices and antique articles are on display in the second floor. Tombstones with beautiful engravings belonging to the period between the 8th and 14th centuries A.H. are on display in the yard of the museum.

RECREATION SITES

In addition to monuments, Gorgan has numerous parks and interesting places such as

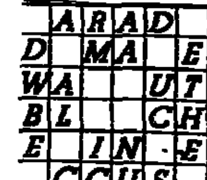


mountains, valleys, rivers, falls, springs and forests. Recreation and resort areas of the city attract a large number of tourists every year. Major recreation areas are the Naharkhoran natural forest park, Ghargh forest, Shirabad (a resort area in the heart of the mountains and forests of Gorgan) and the giant Gorgan Dam. (Courtesy of *IranAir* inflight magazine, Nov. 1994.)

Concluded)

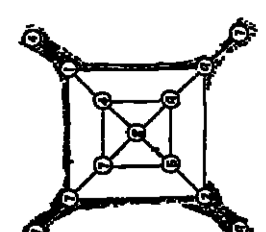
Brain Teasers

When the correct letters are placed into this grid, six words can be read across and two words can be read along the two main diagonal lines from left to right. What are these words?



	A	R	A	D	
D		M	A		E
W	A			U	T
B	L			C	H
E		I	N		E
	C	C	U	S	

Starting at any of the corner numbers, follow the lines so that you pass over four numbers. Now add the four numbers to the total for the route chosen. What are the highest and lowest totals possible?



(Answers will appear next week)

Today in History

1985 — A car bomb explodes in a Beirut suburb, killing 60 people and wounding 190 others.

1988 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expresses optimism that agreement to cut long-range nuclear weapons can be completed before U.S. President Ronald Reagan leaves office.

1989 — India test-fires successfully its first medium-range surface-to-surface missile to cross threshold of Ballistic missile capability.

1990 — North and South Yemen merge.

1991 — India's Congress Party offers party leadership to widow of assassinated leader Rajiv Gandhi.

1992 — The Bush administration slaps political and diplomatic sanctions on Serbia for perpetuating "a humanitarian nightmare" in the Balkans.

1993 — Cambodians vote in first multiparty elections in 21 years.



On Morals of Dervishes

One of the greats asked a pious's opinion on a devotee whom others had censured in their conversations. He replied: "I do not see any outward defect on him, and his inward state is hidden to me."

Whomsoever thou seest in a religious habit, consider him a pious one and think good of him; and, if thou knowest not what is inside him, what business hast the censor (Mohtaseb) inside?

GRAFFITI

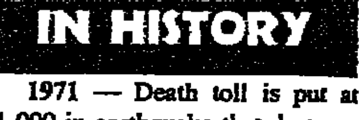
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Education is what lasts after you've forgotten what you learned

Candid Camera



Photo: Abbas Kowsari



1971 — Death toll is put at 1,000 in earthquake that destroys town of Bingol in eastern Turkey.

1983 — South African fighter planes rocket and strafe alleged guerilla bases in Mozambique to retaliate for car-bomb attack near air force headquarters in Pretoria three days earlier.

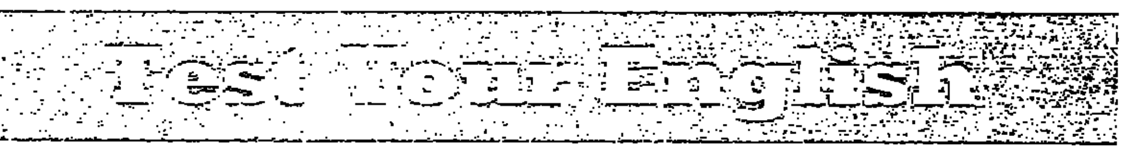
1988 — Hungary's Communist Party outlines sweeping political and economic changes designed to salvage nation's faltering economy.

1990 — Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney acknowledges safety "problem" with U.S. nuclear artillery shells in Europe.

1991 — Sonia Gandhi, widow of Rajiv Gandhi, refuses to lead the Congress Party.

1992 — United States and four former Soviet republic sign agreement to implement START missile-reduction treaty.

1993 — A Louisiana jury acquits a man who fatally shot a Japanese exchange student who knocked on his door looking for a Halloween party.



Complete each of the following advertisements by ticking the correct box at the end of the exercise.

WHEELS WANTED?
Van and driver for hire.
Just £10 1 .... hour.
Ring 786854.

Bank with CitiBank
- the biggest banking corporation 2............ the world
Citibank - the bank you can trust

Fed up 3......... your old sewing machine?
Don't despair and lose your hair.
Invest today in a Quick-Stitch
The machine the professionals use.

About to invest in a new car?
Then why not test drive a
Caprilla
4......... the bestselling car in Europe.

Hacon books proudly announce a new edition of Irene Clucker's celebrated
Gardening for Pleasure
5........ a million copies sold
Now available at your local bookstore. Price £7.95

Buying new 6..........?
For the best selection
at the best prices, visit
THE RIPHAM DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE
Open daily, 9am - 5pm.

Would you like to 7 . ... more money?
Thomson Manufacturing
has immediate vacancies for experienced
SALES EXECUTIVES
Ring 235891 (office hours) for an interview

For that extra special meal, there's only one place to go...
The Elisa Palace
dine in a relaxed atmosphere of comfortable elegance
sample some of our 8.......... Cantonese dishes
enjoy our efficient and courteous service
Reservations welcome. Ring 489387/ 489388

1 ☐ a ☐ an
2 ☐ in ☐ of
3 ☐ of ☐ with
4 ☐ still ☐ yet

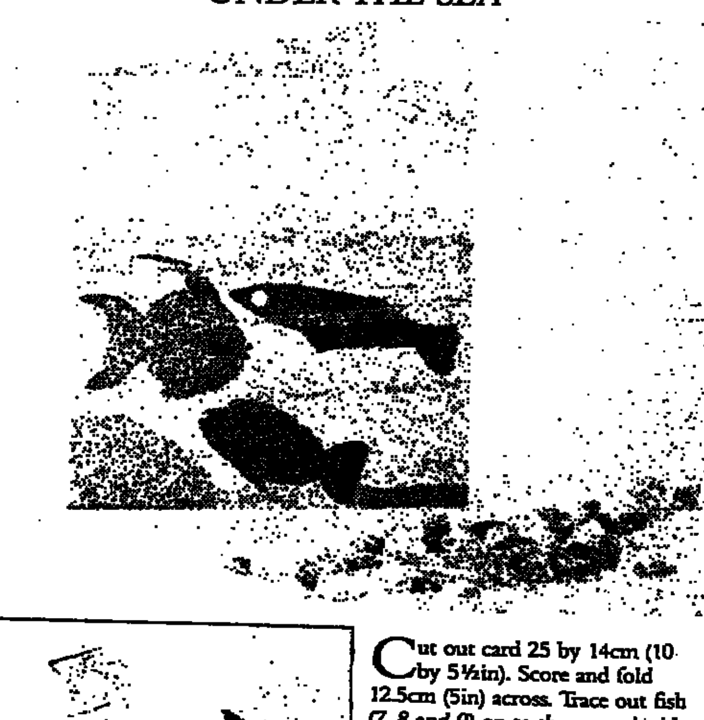
5 ☐ above ☐ over
6 ☐ furniture ☐ furnitures
7 ☐ earn ☐ gain
8 ☐ tasteful ☐ tasty

ANSWER KEY

1 an 2 in 3 with 4 still 5 over 6 furniture 7 earn 8 tasty



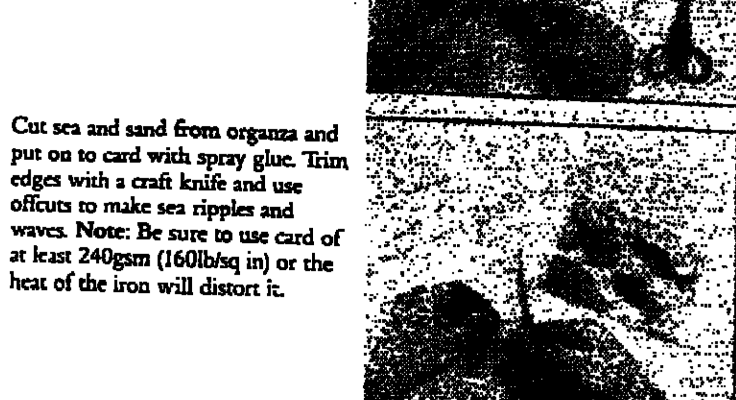
UNDER THE SEA



Cut out card 25 by 14cm (10 by 5½in). Score and fold 12.5cm (5in) across. Trace out fish (*7, 8 and 9*) on to the smooth side of bonding web. Cut out fish just outside pencil outline and place rough side of web on to back of your fabric. Press with a warm iron to melt the glue. Cut out on outline. Peel off backing and position on card. Press with a dry iron.



Draw in eyes and details of fish with felt-tipped pens. Alternatively, you can use sequins for the eyes. Cut rocks and stick down in place with spray glue.



Cut sea and sand from organza and put on to card with spray glue. Trim edges with a craft knife and use offcuts to make sea ripples and waves. Note: Be sure to use card of at least 240gsm (160lb/sq in) or the heat of the iron will distort it.

